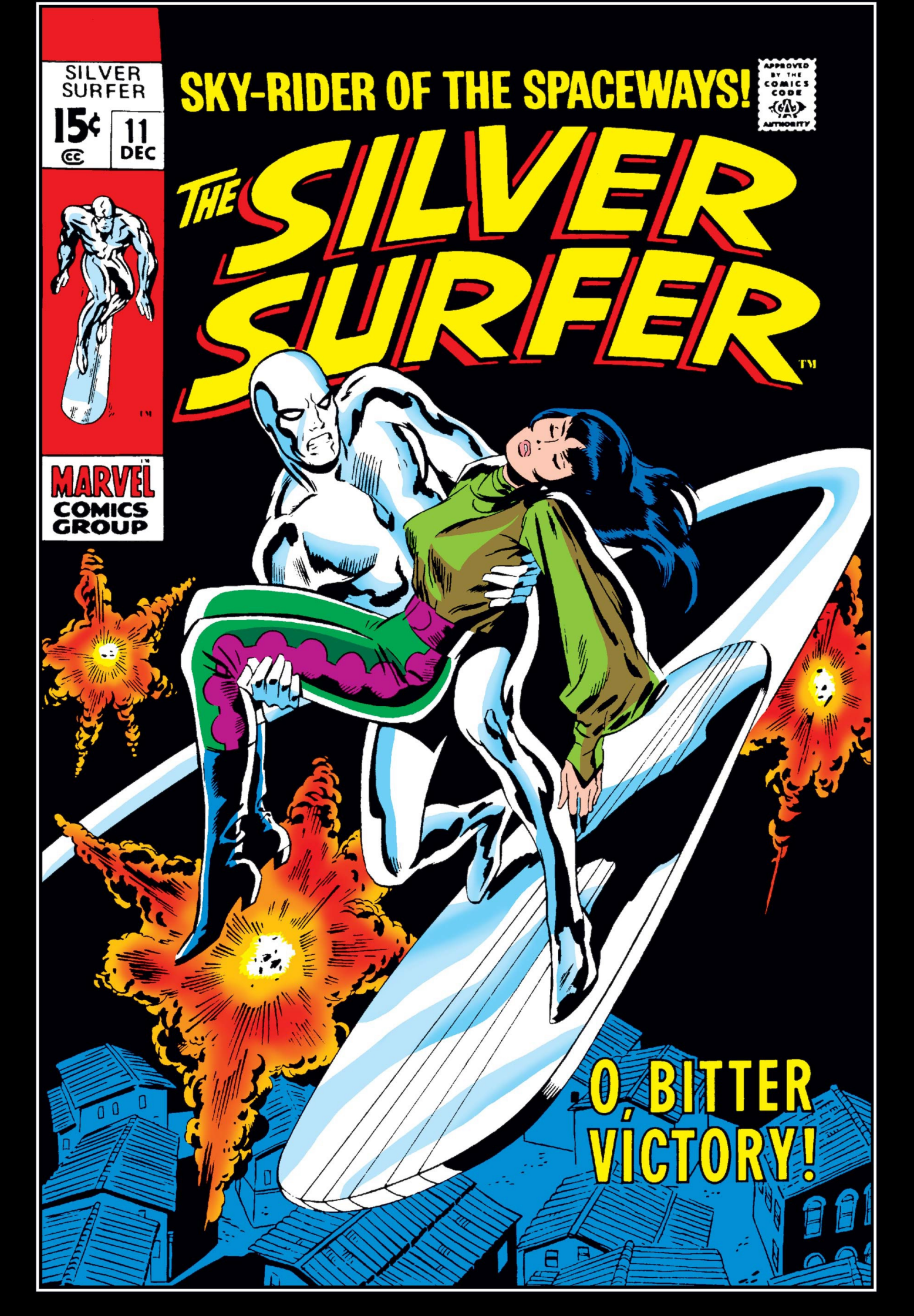
SILVER SURFER
15¢
11 DEC
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE SILVER SURFER
O, BITTER VICTORY!

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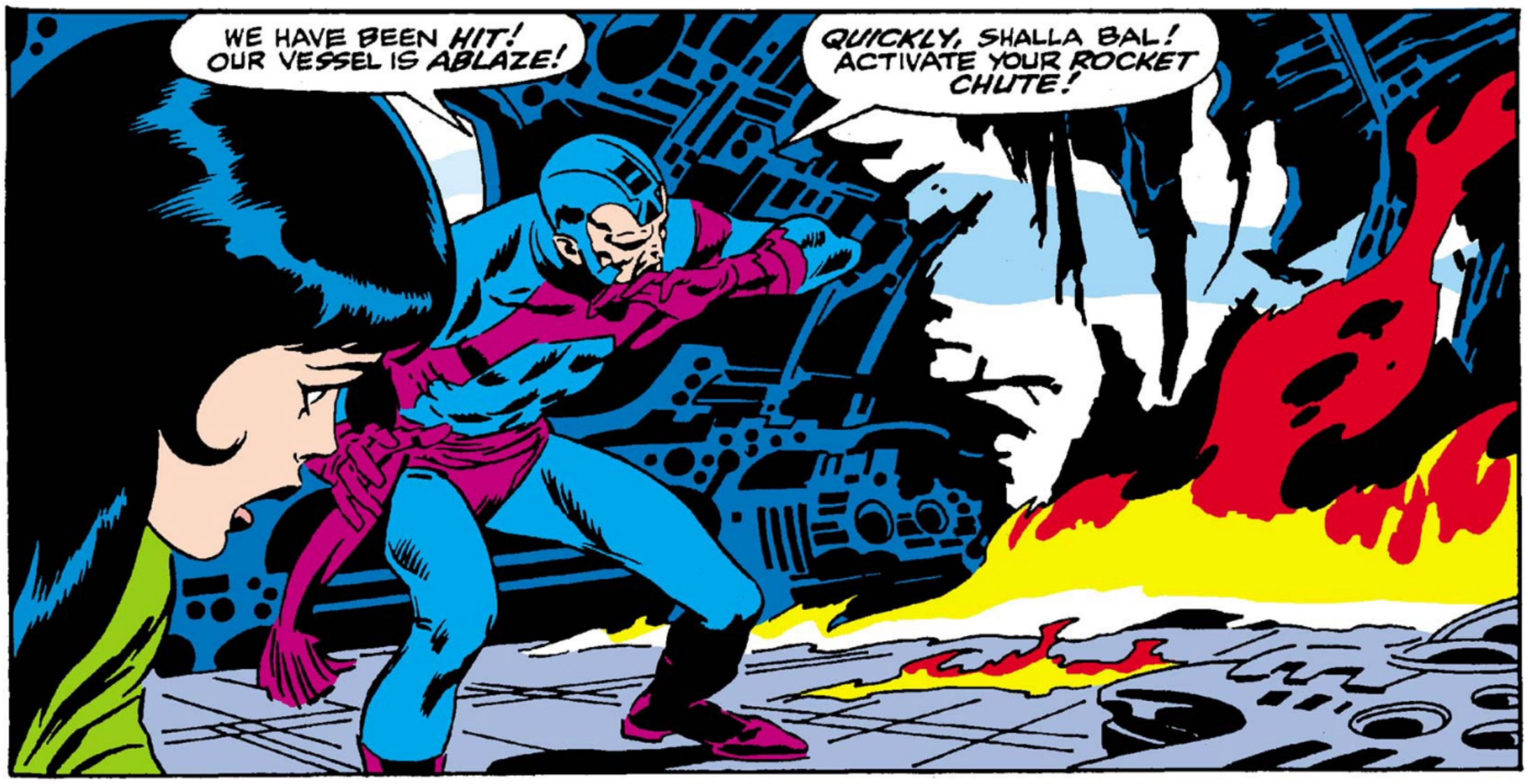
WE ARE FORTUNATE! THEY MUST REDUCE SPEED AS THEY PREPARE TO LAND!
THAT WILL MAKE THEM VULNERABLE TO OUR OWN GUNFIRE!

THE SPACECRAFT DRAWS NEARER!
THERE IS ONE REMAINING CANNON THE SURFER DID NOT DESTROY!
IF I CAN BUT REACH IT IN TIME!

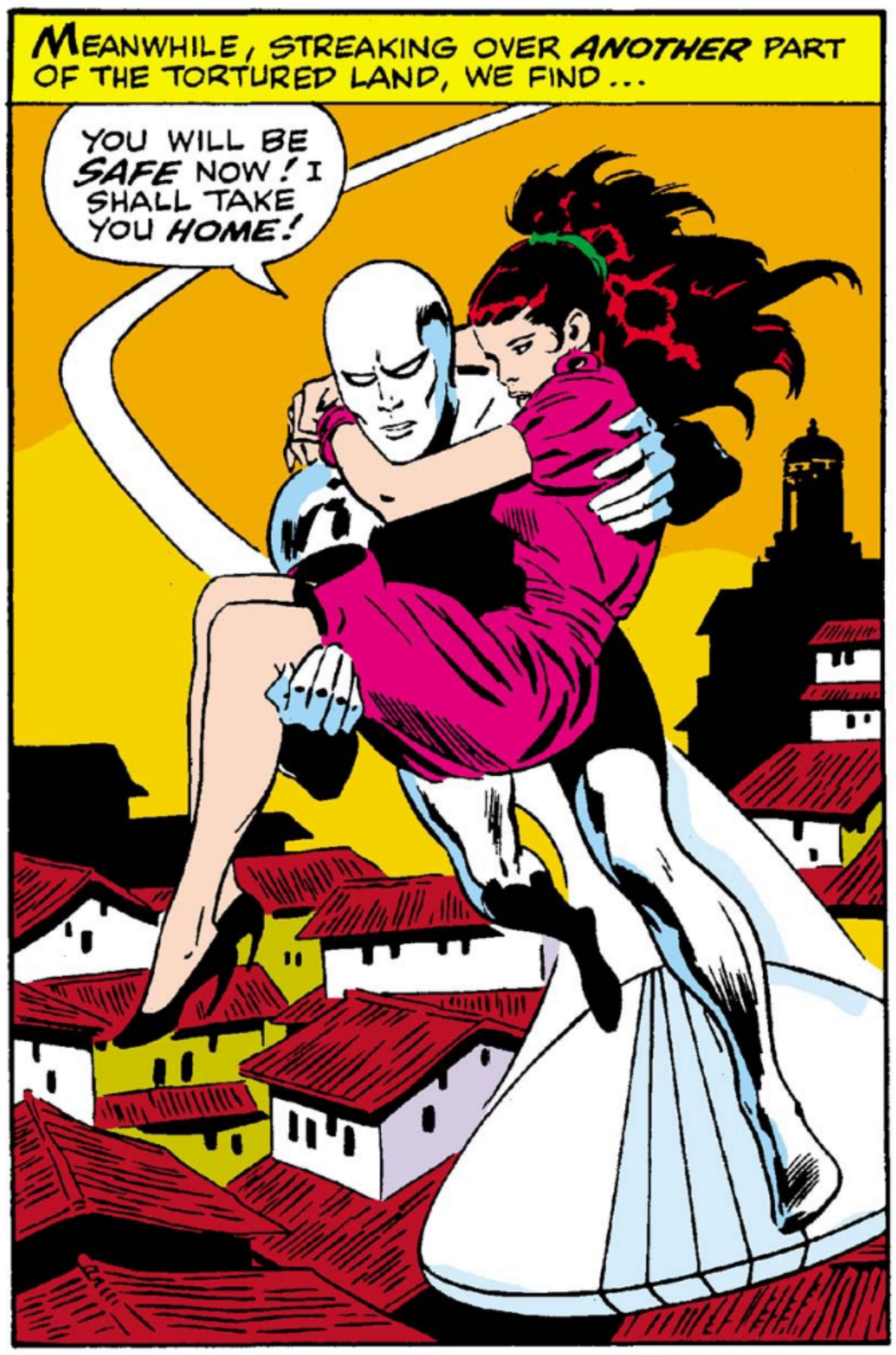
THERE IS ONLY TIME FOR ONE LONE SALVO...
I MUST NOT MISS! I SHALL NOT MISS!

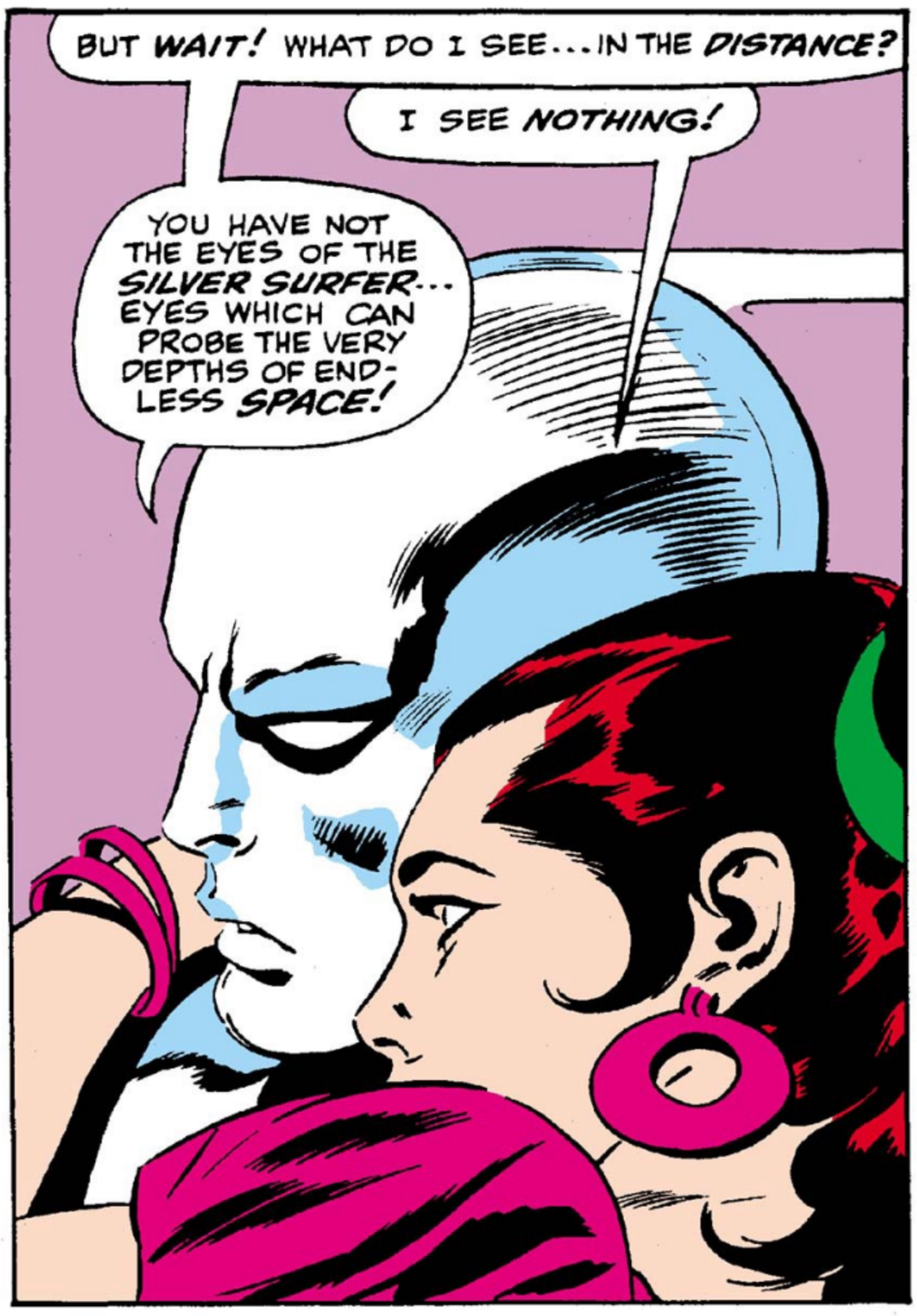
BOOOM!

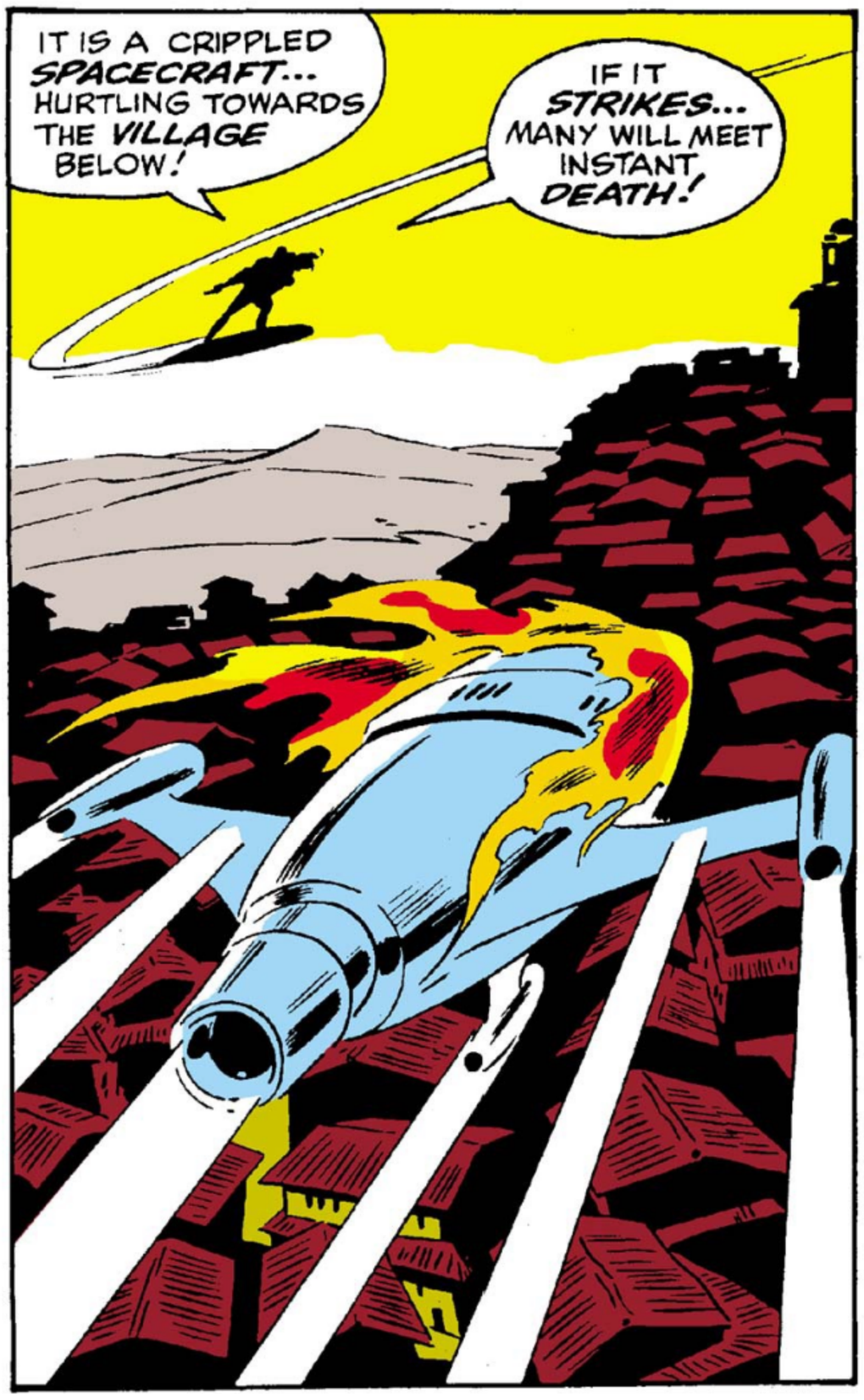

WE HAVE BEEN HIT! OUR VESSEL IS ABLAZE!
QUICKLY, SHALLA BAL! ACTIVATE YOUR ROCKET CHUTE!

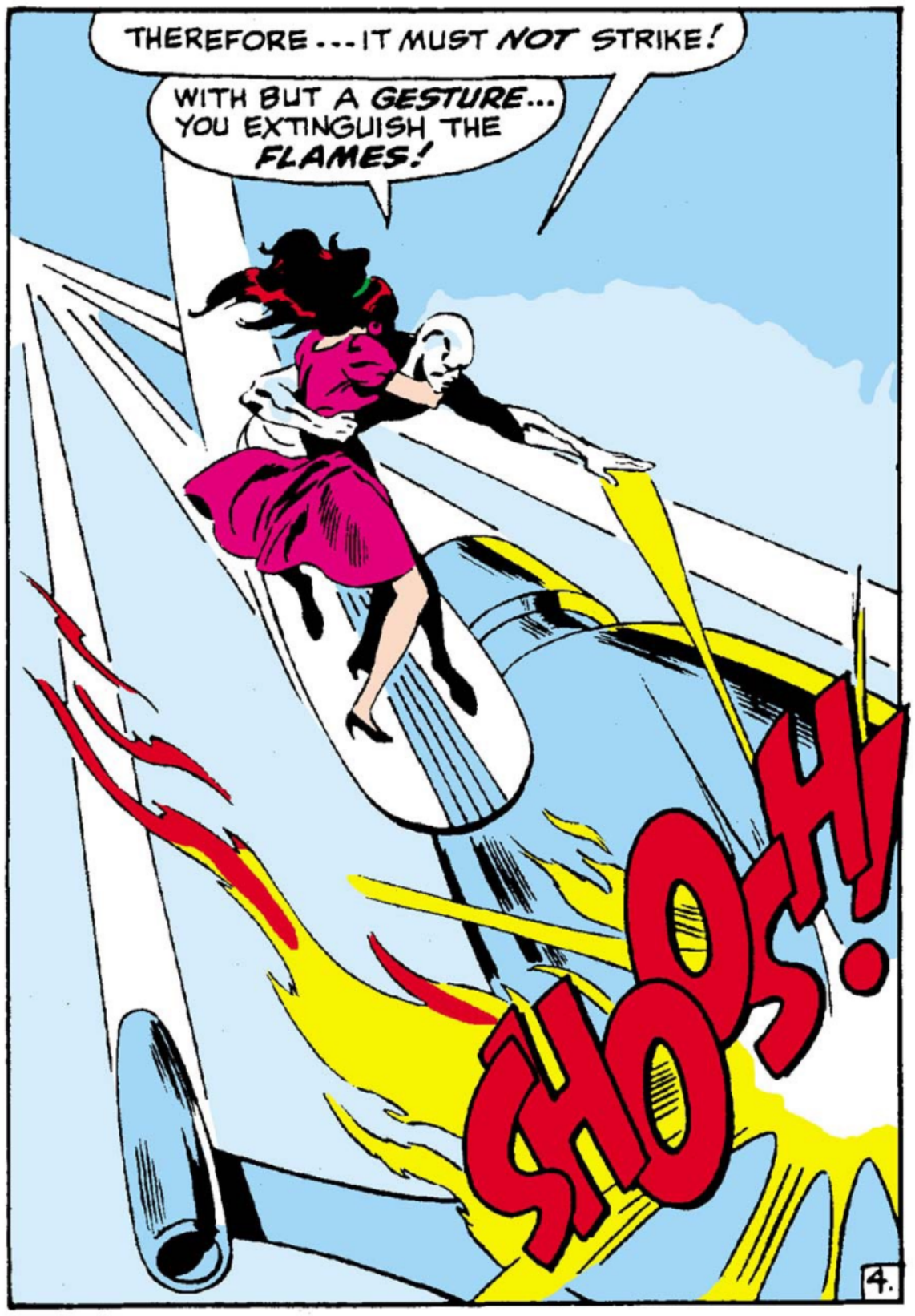
ONCE ON EARTH, I MUST FIND A WAY TO CHANGE HER LOATHING FOR ME TO LOVE!
I MUST PROVE TO BE A BETTER MAN THAN HER ACCURSED NORRIN RADD!
IT NO LONGER MATTERS IF I LIVE, OR DIE!
I HAVE SEEN NORRIN RADD... IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER!

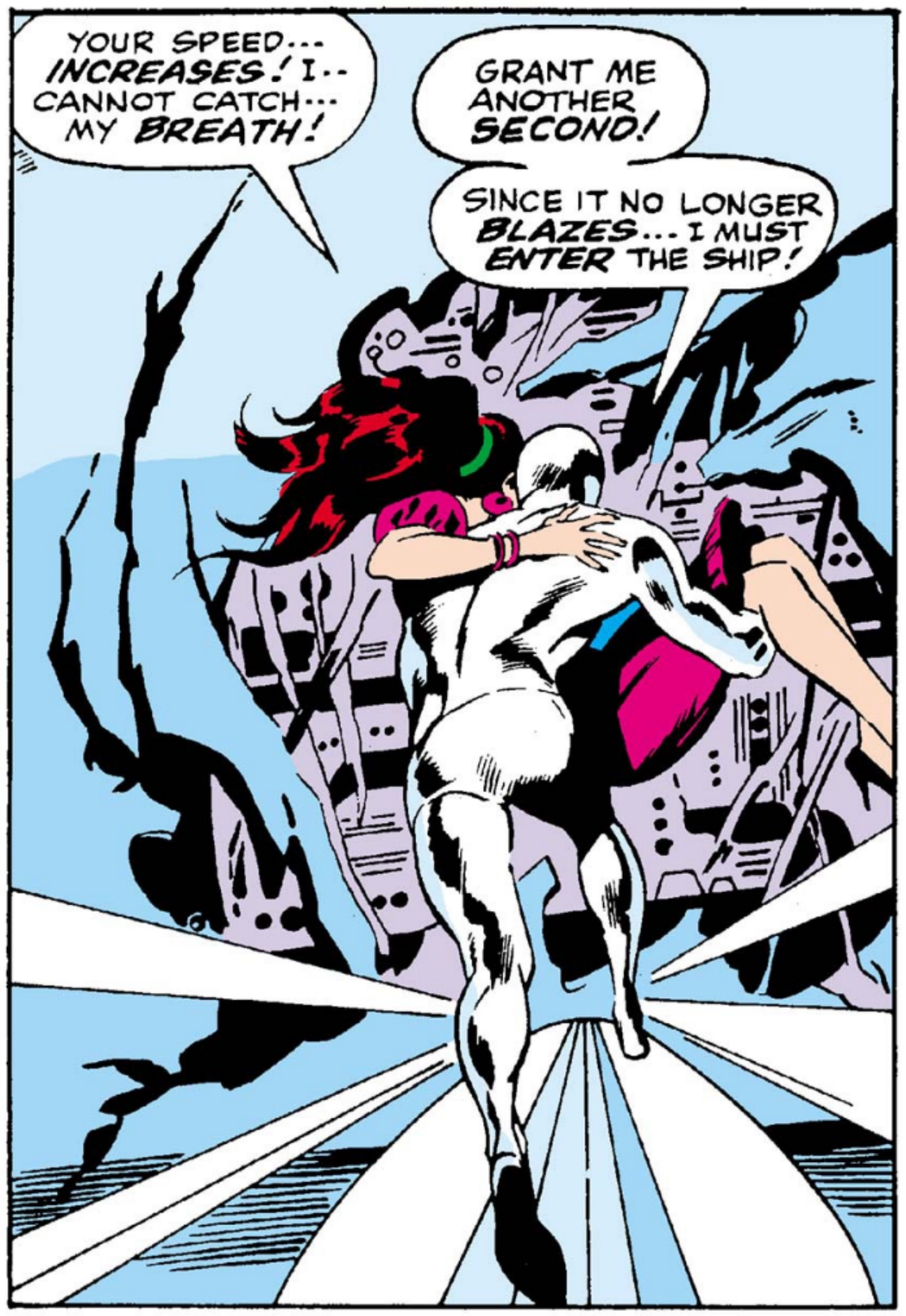
ALAS, THE LOVELY SHALLA BAL CANNOT KNOW THAT THE SURFER HAD MERELY RECEIVED A KISS OF GRATITUDE FROM THE VALIANT GIRL WHOM HE HAD RESCUED FROM THE INVADERS...
...THE SAME INVADERS WHO NOW RACE TO CAPTURE THE ALIEN DUO...
BACK, YOU PEASANT CLODS! I AM YARRO GORT!
YOUR FEEBLE, PRIMITIVE FIREARMS CANNOT THREATEN ME!
I AM A NOBLE OF ZENN-LA!
YOUR FATE IS NOT FOR US TO JUDGE! WE MUST BRING YOU TO EL CAPITAN!
3.

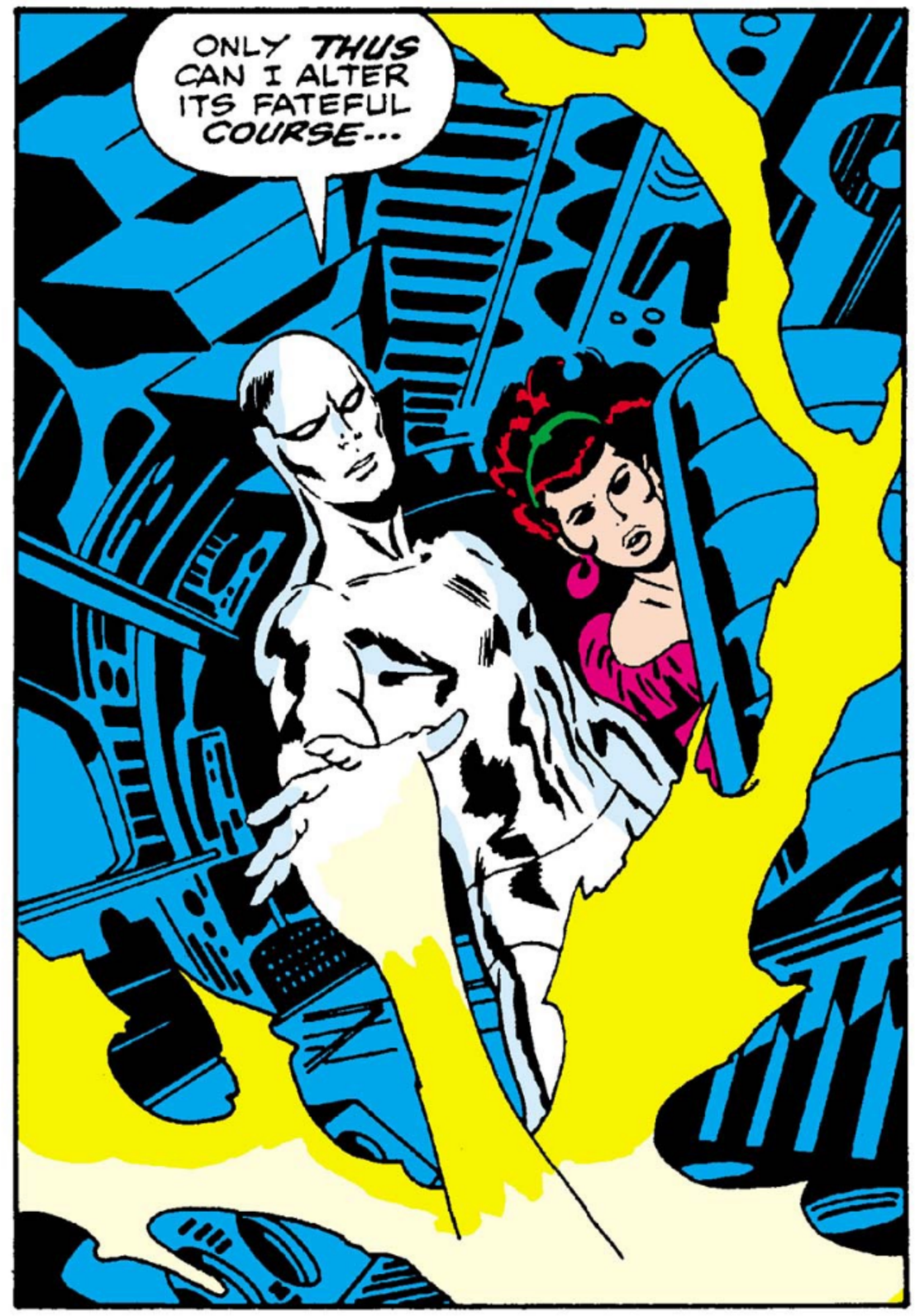

MEANWHILE, STREAKING OVER ANOTHER PART OF THE TORTURED LAND, WE FIND...
YOU WILL BE SAFE NOW! I SHALL TAKE YOU HOME!

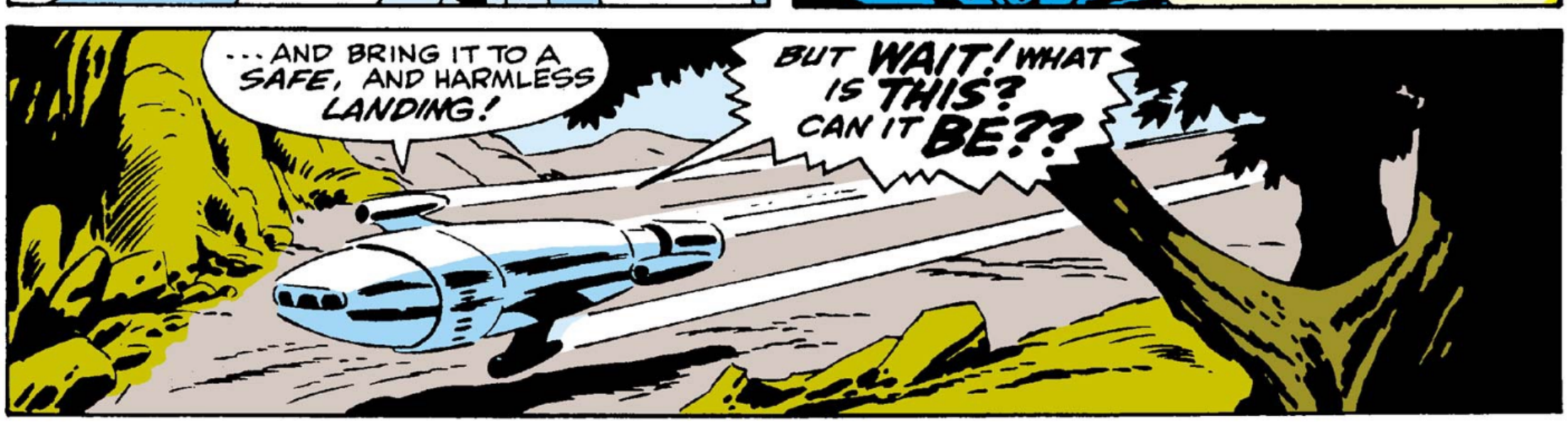

BUT WAIT! WHAT DO I SEE...IN THE DISTANCE?
I SEE NOTHING!
YOU HAVE NOT THE EYES OF THE SILVER SURFER... EYES WHICH CAN PROBE THE VERY DEPTHS OF END-LESS SPACE!


IT IS A CRIPPLED SPACECRAFT... HURTLING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE BELOW!
IF IT STRIKES... MANY WILL MEET INSTANT DEATH!

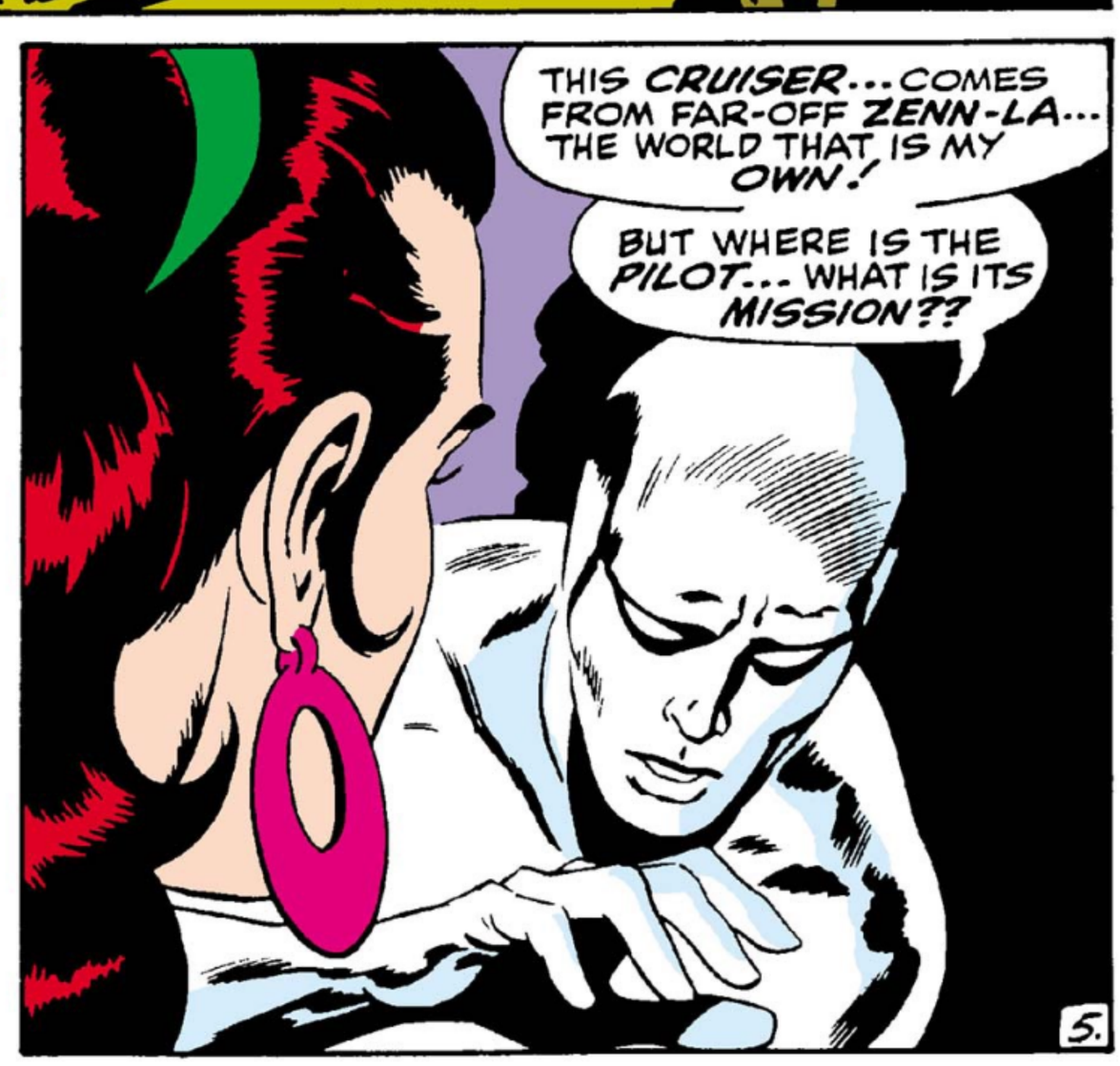

THEREFORE...IT MUST NOT STRIKE!
WITH BUT A GESTURE... YOU EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES!
SHOOSH!


YOUR SPEED... INCREASES! I.. CANNOT CATCH... MY BREATH!
GRANT ME ANOTHER SECOND!
SINCE IT NO LONGER BLAZES... I MUST ENTER THE SHIP!


ONLY THUS CAN I ALTER ITS FATEFUL COURSE...


...AND BRING IT TO A SAFE, AND HARMLESS LANDING!
BUT WAIT! WHAT IS THIS? CAN IT BE??

IN MY HASTE, I DID NOT TAKE TIME TO NOTICE...


THIS CRUISER... COMES FROM FAR-OFF ZENN-LA... THE WORLD THAT IS MY OWN!
BUT WHERE IS THE PILOT... WHAT IS ITS MISSION??

THE MEMORIES IT STIRS WITHIN MY LONELY BREAST... THE FALLEN HOPES...THE ENDLESS TORMENT... ARE MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

TO YOU, WE STAND WITHIN A TWISTED SHELL OF SMOLDERING METAL...

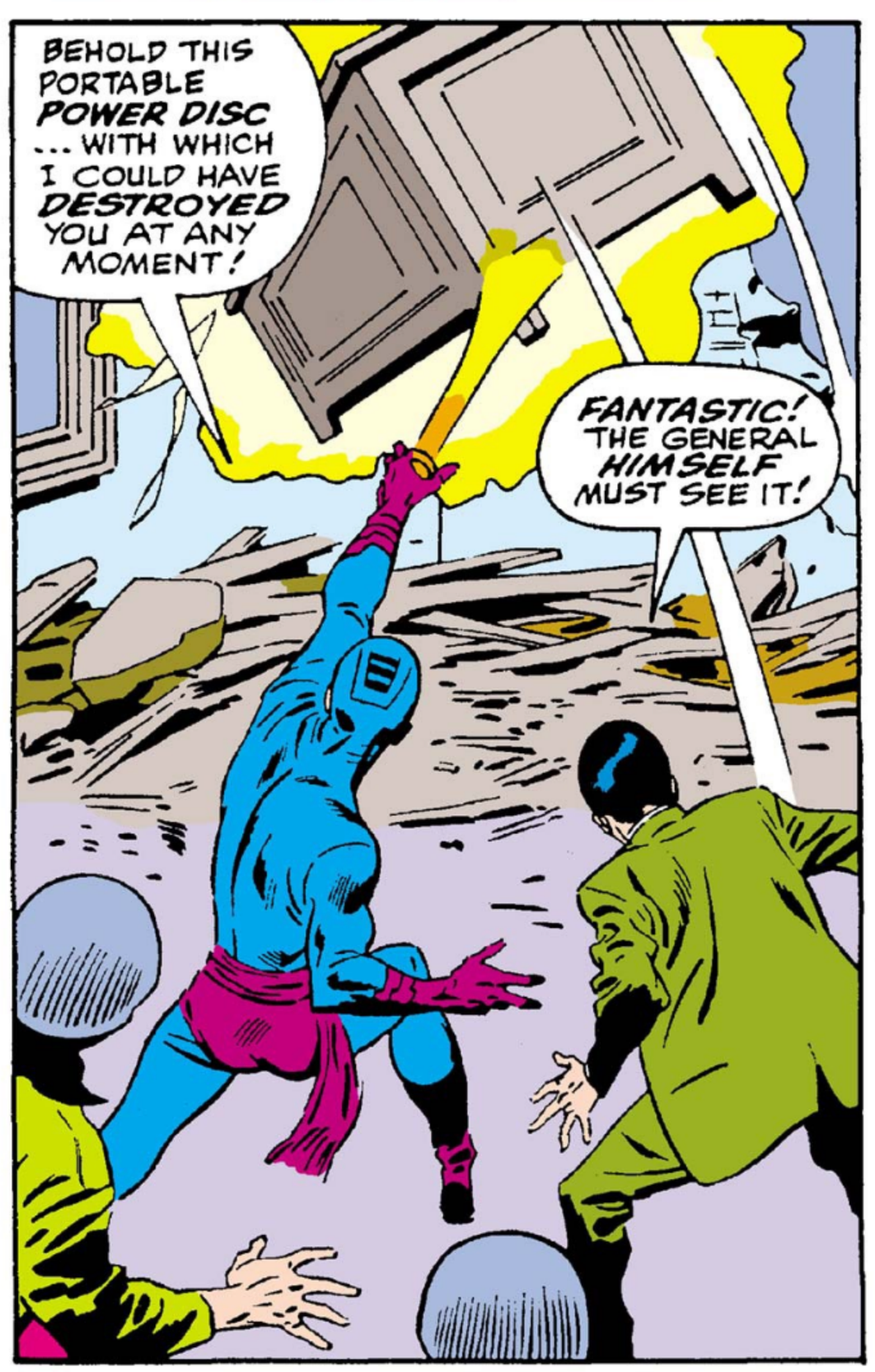
BUT, TO ME... IT IS A LINK WITH ALL I STILL HOLD DEAR...WITH ALL I'VE LOVED... WITH ALL I'VE LOST...FOREVER!

AND, SPEAKING OF ONE HE'S LOVED, LET'S RETURN TO SHALLA BAL...
THE FEMALE'S BEAUTY IS MOST TRULY WONDROUS!
BUT IT WILL NOT SERVE TO SPARE HER LIFE!

YOU BOTH HAVE COME FROM THE SKY... FROM A PLACE BEYOND THE STARS! THEREFORE, YOU MUST BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE SILVER FLYING DEMON!
AND, SINCE HE IS MY ENEMY... THEN YOU ARE MY ENEMIES!

TAKE THE MAN OUT AND SHOOT HIM!
I WILL DECIDE THE FEMALE'S FATE AT A LATER TIME!
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH! NOW, EARTHLING FOOL ...YOU SHALL HEAR THE WORDS OF YARRO GORT!

SOON, THE SILVER SURFER WILL RETURN... AND YOU WILL BE POWERLESS BEFORE HIM!
BUT I CAN GIVE YOU NEW... AND POTENT WEAPONS!
I WILL HEAR MORE!
WITH ME ON YOUR SIDE, YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DESTROY THE SURFER!
PROOF! I MUST HAVE PROOF!
WITHOUT ME...YOU ARE DOOMED!


BEHOLD THIS PORTABLE POWER DISC ...WITH WHICH I COULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU AT ANY MOMENT!
FANTASTIC! THE GENERAL HIMSELF MUST SEE IT!

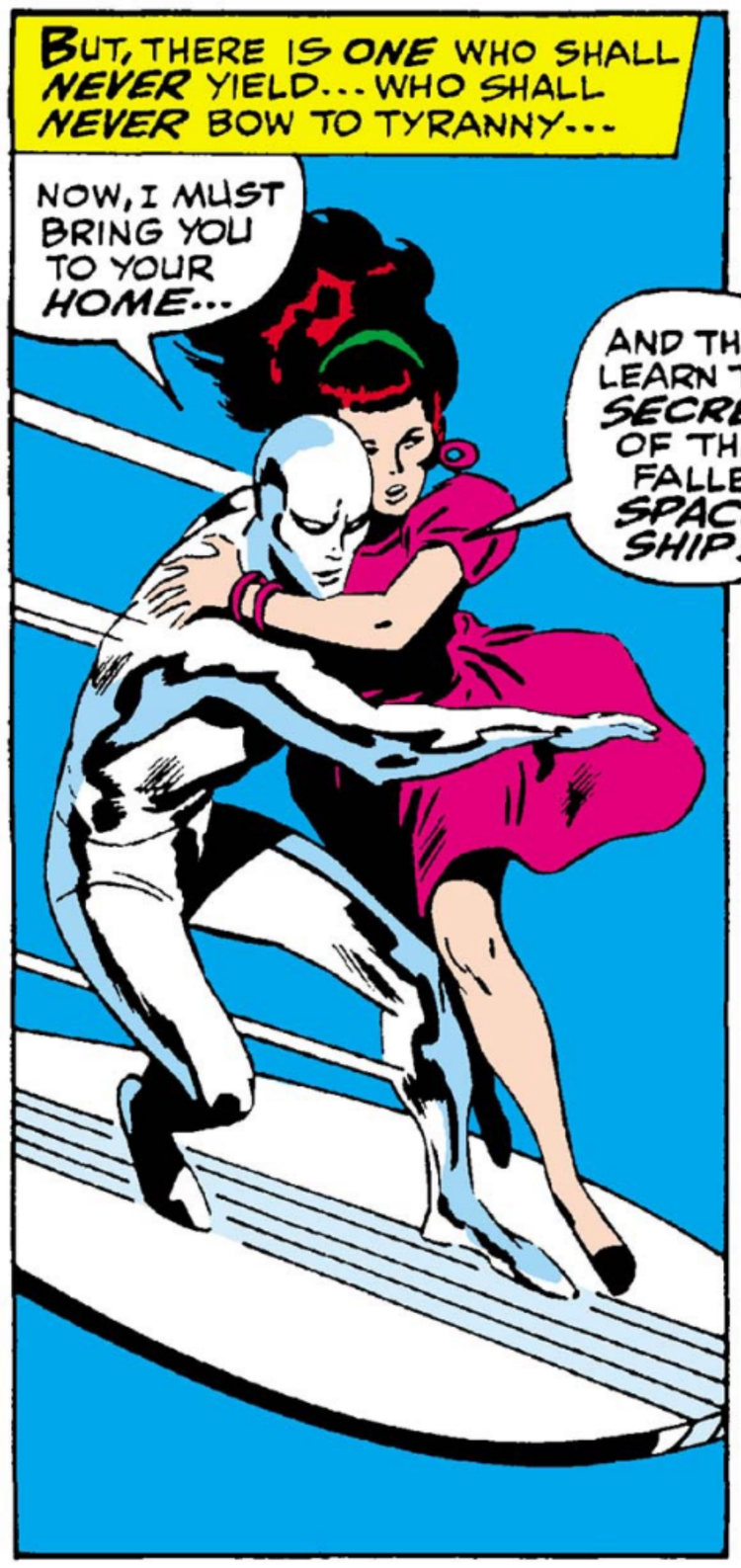
YARRO GORT! WAIT! YOU CANNOT TURN AGAINST THE SURFER! EVEN THOUGH HE HAS FORSAKEN ME... WAIT! HE MUST NOT BE HARMED!
IGNORE HER WORDS! THEY ARE BUT THE MOUTHINGS OF A LOVESICK FEMALE!
I THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS YOUR WOMAN!
SHE WILL BE ...BEFORE I AM DONE!
BUT FIRST... THE SILVER SURFER MUST MEET HIS DEATH!

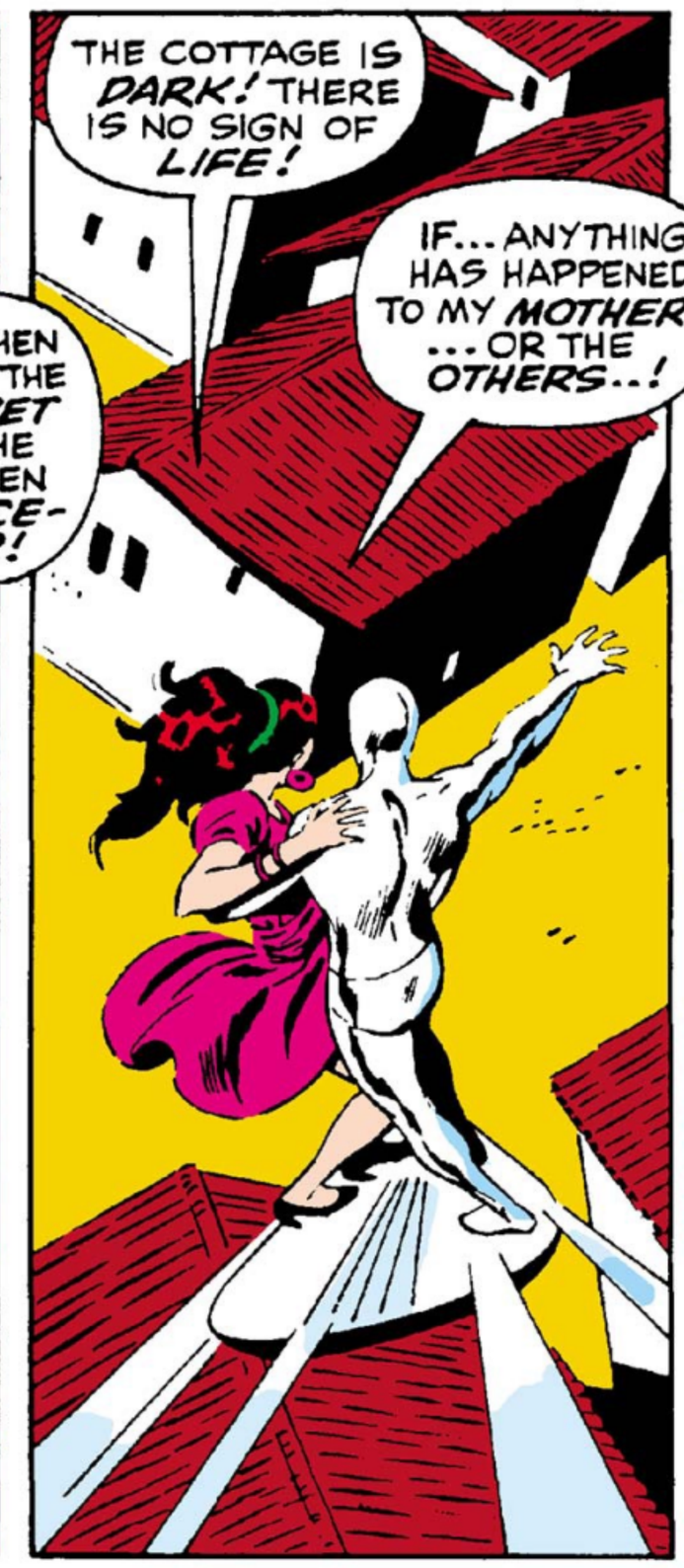
THIS POWER DISC OF YOURS---CAN YOU TEACH US HOW TO DUPLICATE IT?
I DO NOT DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS WITH UNDERLINGS!
FIRST, I MUST MEET YOUR GENERAL!

IF YOU ARE THE CONQUERORS... WHY IS EVERYTHING SO HEAVILY GUARDED? WHAT IS IT YOU FEAR?
WE FEAR NOTHING! BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME FOOLS IN THE UNDER-GROUND WHO DARE TO RESIST US!
WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT... UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!

GENERAL... I BRING YOU A MOST AMAZING CAPTIVE!
ENTER, CAPTAIN... ENTER!
I HAVE ALREADY HEARD OF OUR MYS-TERIOUS VISITOR!
I CHOOSE NEVER TO EMPLOY THE WORD CAPTIVE!
ALL MEN ARE MY BROTHERS... MY COMRADES!

I HAVE INVADED THIS TRAGIC LAND TO BRING THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE TO THOSE WHO DWELL WITHIN!
ONCE MY ENEMIES HAVE BEEN SLAIN... THOSE WHO SURVIVE WILL LEARN TO LOVE ME... OR PERISH!


BUT, THERE IS ONE WHO SHALL NEVER YIELD... WHO SHALL NEVER BOW TO TYRANNY...
NOW, I MUST BRING YOU TO YOUR HOME...
AND THEN LEARN THE SECRET OF THE FALLEN SPACE-SHIP!


THE COTTAGE IS DARK! THERE IS NO SIGN OF LIFE!
IF... ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO MY MOTHER ... OR THE OTHERS..!

MADRE DIOS!! WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?
I HEAR SOMETHING ...FROM THE SHADOWS WITHIN..!

GRAB HIM! IF WE MUST DIE... IT SHALL BE AS MEN... FIGHTING FOR OUR LIBERTY!

LET THE TYRANTS KNOW THAT THEY WILL NEVER FIND SAFETY... WHILE ONE OF US LIVES!
HE IS TOO POWERFUL! WE CANNOT HOLD HIM!
NO, MANUEL... NO! HE IS A FRIEND!
HE HAS SAVED MY LIFE!

WAIT, AMIGOS! MARIA SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
IT IS THE SKY-RIDER WHO HAS DARED TO BEFRIEND US!

BUT NOW...THERE IS ANOTHER FROM A FAR-OFF WORLD... ONE WHO HAS SWORN TO DESTROY YOU!
I HAVE SEEN HIS SHIP! TELL ME QUICKLY WHERE HE MAY BE FOUND!
WE DO NOT KNOW! HE PLOTS IN SECRET WITH THE ACCURSED GENERAL!

PEDRO...YOU ARE SO FEW! WHERE ARE THE OTHERS... THE OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS?
THEY HAVE CRUSHED US, MARIA! ONLY THIS HANDFUL REMAINS!

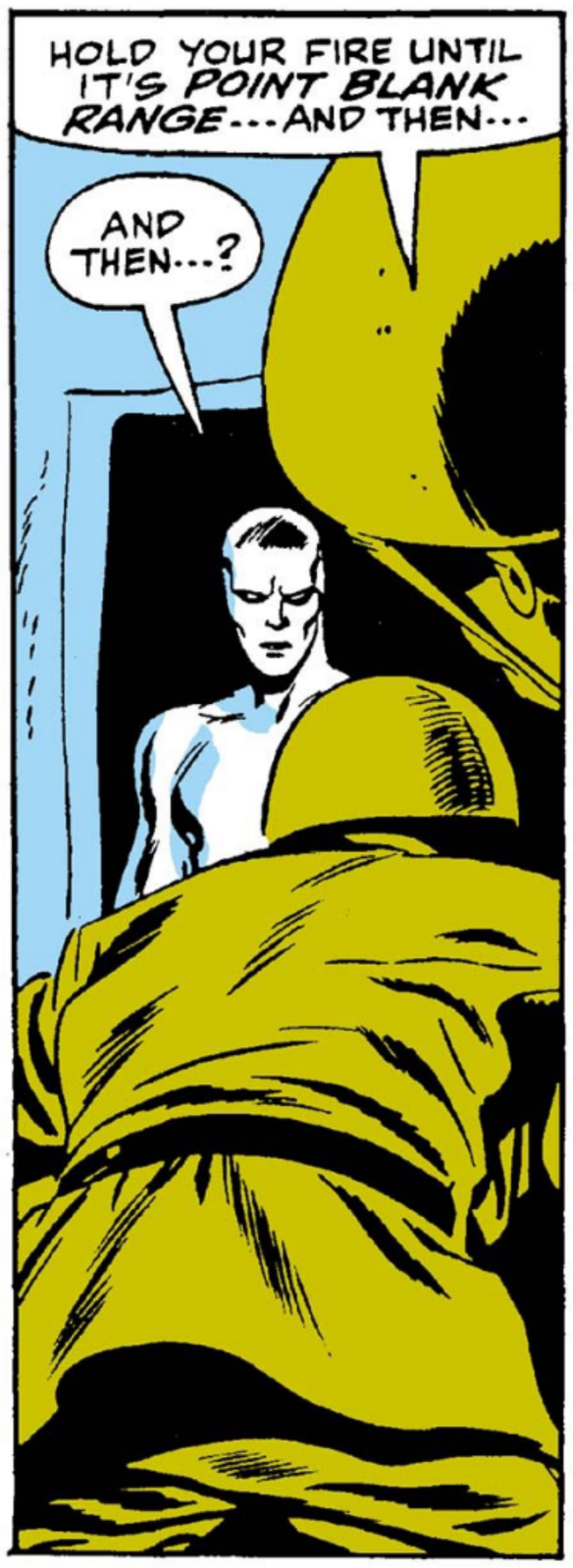
EVEN A HANDFUL CAN CONQUER AN ARMY...IF THEIR CAUSE IS JUST!
BUT I MUST LEARN MORE OF THE STRANGER FROM SPACE!
TELL HIM, COMPADRES... TELL HIM!

SILENCE!! DO YOU NOT HEAR THE SOUND OF THUNDERING BOOTS OUTSIDE?
OUR MOMENT HAS COME! WE MUST FIGHT ...TILL WE DIE!

DEFEND YOURSELVES, AMIGOS! AND VAYA CON DIOS!
PEASANT DOGS! YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE US AGAIN!
IN THE NAME OF THE GENERAL... WE STRIKE!

IT IS YOU! YOU HAVE CREATED AN UNSEEN BARRIER BETWEEN THEM!
I CAN STOMACH NO MORE SENSE-LESS SLAUGHTER... NO MORE WANTON SAVAGERY!
WHEN WILL THEY LEARN THE FUTILITY ...THE FOLLY OF IT ALL?

THE SILVER SURFER... HE'S COMING TOWARDS US! THIS MUST BE HIS DOING!


HOLD YOUR FIRE UNTIL IT'S POINT BLANK RANGE...AND THEN...
AND THEN...?

CARAMBA!
ZIT

HE HAS RENDERED US HELPLESS... WITH BUT A GLANCE!
OUR WEAPONS HAVE VANISHED!
HE SIMPLY BRUSHED THEM OUT OF EXISTENCE!

HE'S SETTING US FREE! HE'S LETTING US GO!
RUN! RUN! ONE SUCH AS HE COULD DESTROY US WITH A GESTURE!

YOU... WHO HAVE SAVED US FROM THEIR ONSLAUGHT... WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS BAD THING?
BAD THING? I DO NOT UNDER-STAND!
WHY DID YOU LET THEM GO FREE... WHEN YOU MIGHT HAVE SLAIN THEM?

YOU ARE MURDERERS ALL... BUT I'LL NOT BE A PART OF YOUR MADNESS!
YOU SEE ONLY GOOD AND BAD ...RIGHT AND WRONG...
DO YOU NEVER SEE MERCY? ARE YOU BLIND TO FORGIVENESS!
WERE THEY NOT MERELY PAWNS? DID THEY NOT BELIEVE... EVEN AS YOU?

YOU MUST NOT BE BITTER! WE HAVE... SO MUCH TO LEARN!
BUT THE SANDS OF TIME ARE SLOWLY RUNNING OUT!

I THOUGHT... BY WALKING AMONG THEM... I COULD LEARN TO UNDER-STAND!
BUT WHAT IS THE PROFIT OF WATCH-ING CHILDREN AT PLAY?

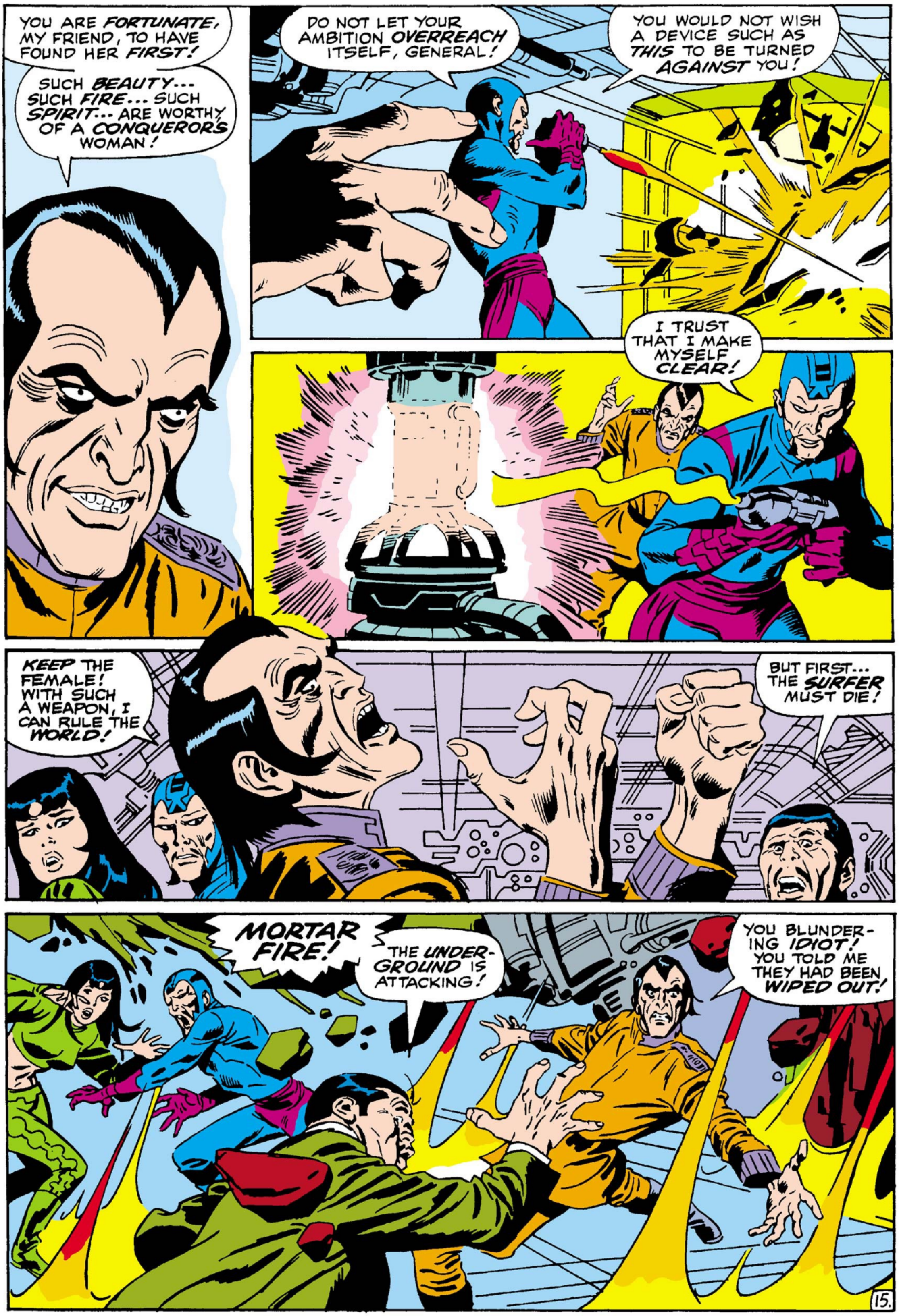
SOME CHILDREN, HOWEVER, PLAY AT MORE DANGEROUS GAMES THAN OTHERS! ERGO...
THE ONE CALLED YARRO GORT HAS PROMISED ME WEAPONS GREATER THAN ANY EVER KNOWN ON EARTH!
I MUST SEE HOW HIS WORK IS COMMENCING!
REMEMBER, GENERAL...IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT HIM TO YOU!

IS MY GRATITUDE NOT JUSTLY FAMOUS? EVEN YARRO GORT SHALL BE HANDSOMELY REWARDED WHEN HE IS DONE!
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT HIS DEATH IS SWIFT... AND PAIN-LESS!
YOU... PLAN TO MURDER HIM?
FOOL! CAN I AFFORD TO LET HIM LIVE... WITH THE KNOW-LEDGE HE POSSESSES?

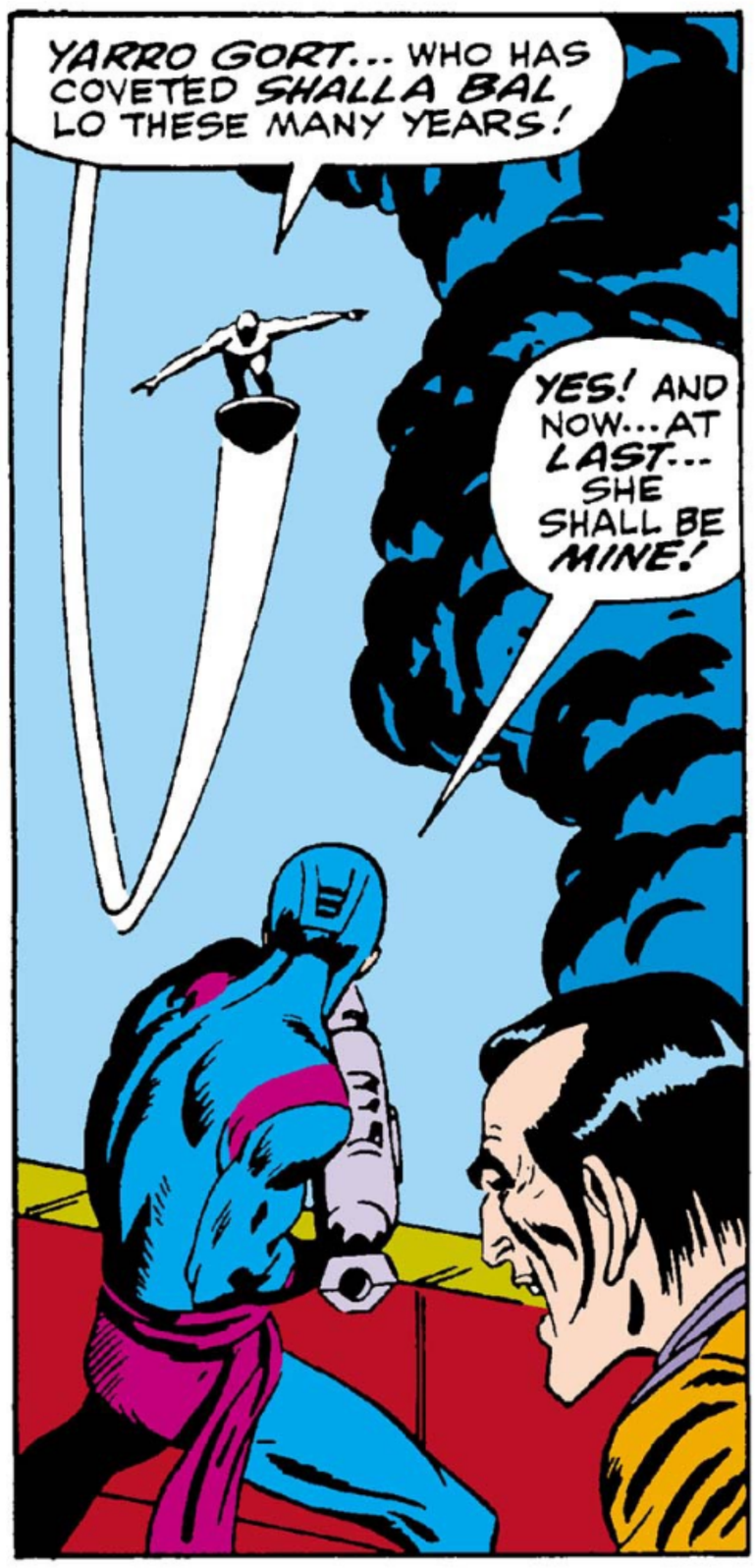
AHHH... I SEE MY HONORED GUEST IS STILL HARD AT WORK!
IT PLEASES ME TO OBSERVE SUCH FAITHFUL DILIGENCE!
COME IN! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

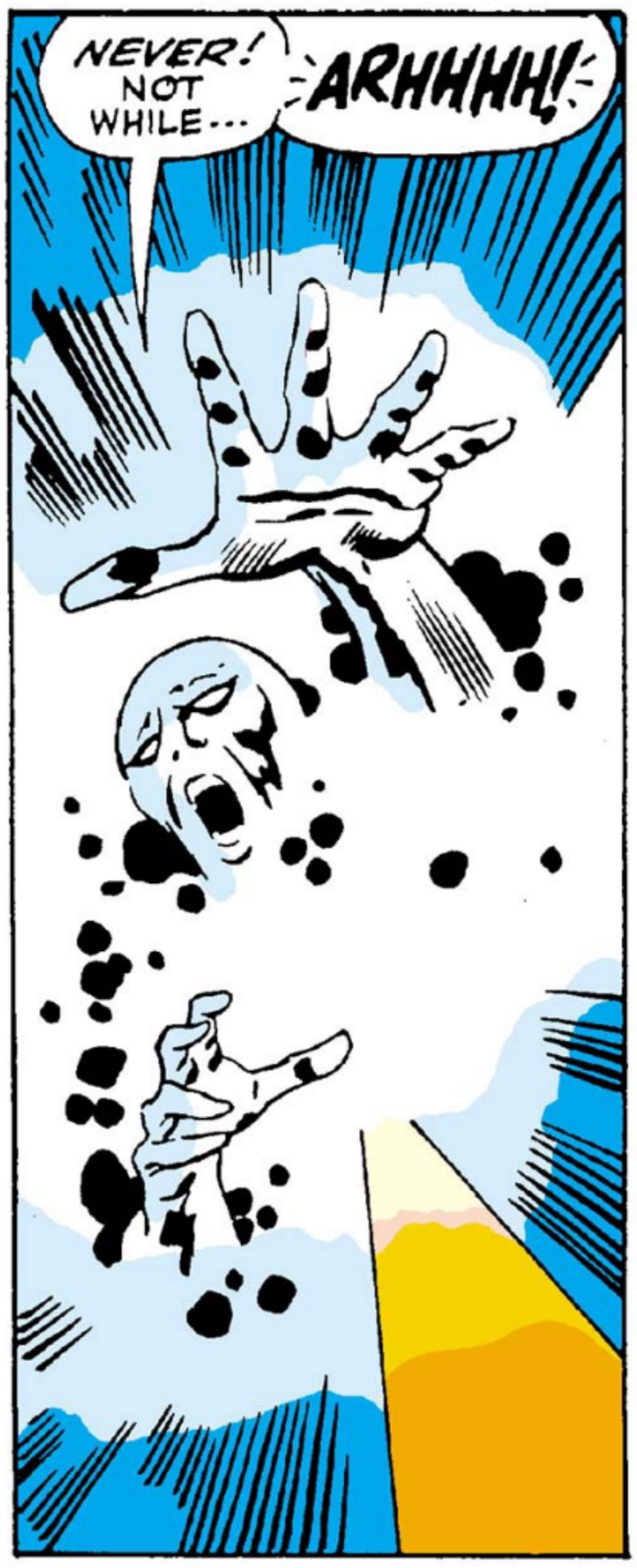
THIS IS THE WEAPON I PROMISED YOU!
A TINY HAND GUN? SURELY THERE MUST BE MORE!
WAIT UNTIL YOU TRY IT!

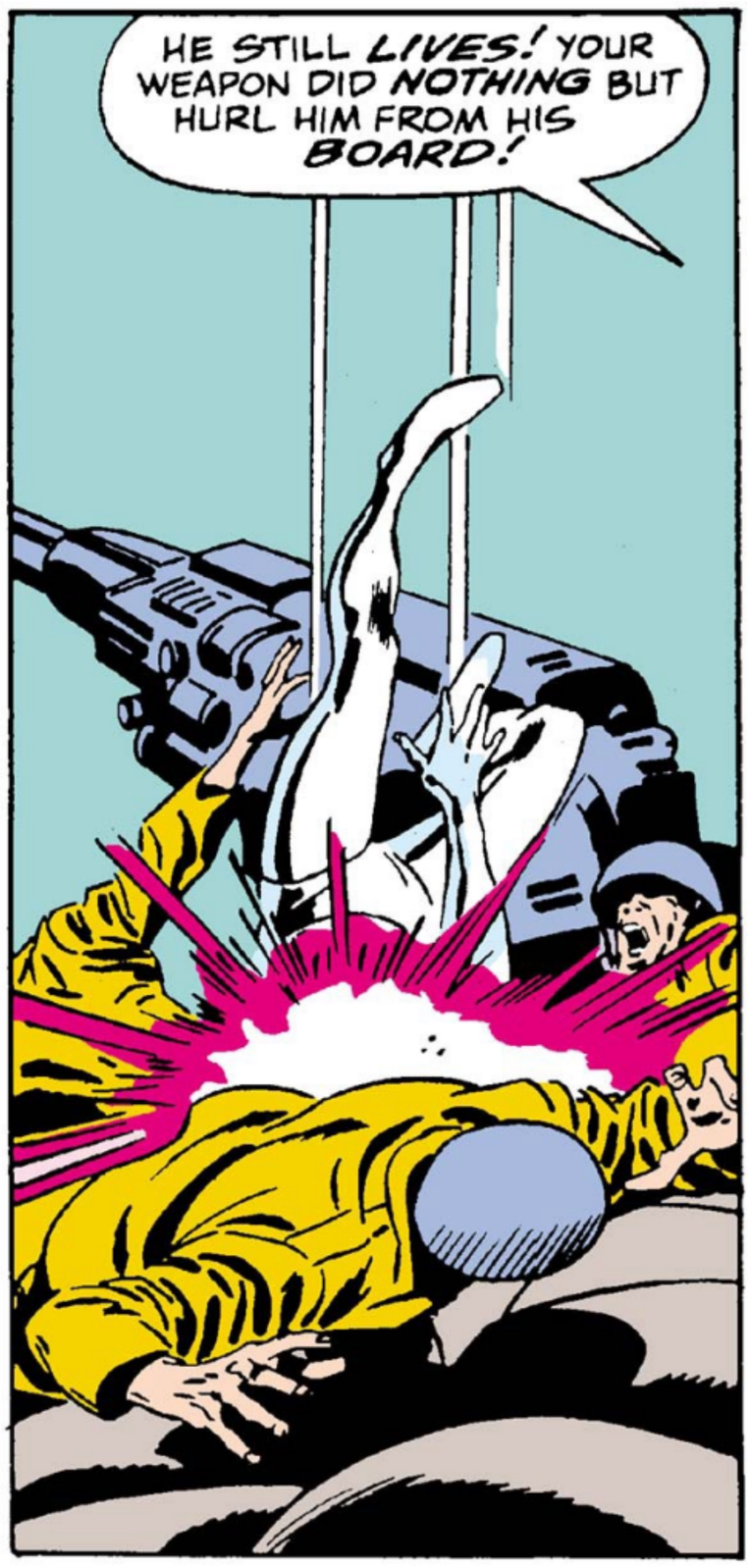
HEAR ME, YARRO GORT! IF YOU WANT ME FOR YOUR BRIDE... I WILL CONSENT... BUT YOU MUST NOT HARM THE SURFER!
WHAT A TOUCHING SENTIMENT FROM SO LOVELY A FEMALE!


YOU ARE FORTUNATE, MY FRIEND, TO HAVE FOUND HER FIRST!
SUCH BEAUTY... SUCH FIRE... SUCH SPIRIT... ARE WORTHY OF A CONQUEROR'S WOMAN!
DO NOT LET YOUR AMBITION OVERREACH ITSELF, GENERAL!
YOU WOULD NOT WISH A DEVICE SUCH AS THIS TO BE TURNED AGAINST YOU!
I TRUST THAT I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!
KEEP THE FEMALE! WITH SUCH A WEAPON, I CAN RULE THE WORLD!
BUT FIRST... THE SURFER MUST DIE!
MORTAR FIRE!
THE UNDERGROUND IS ATTACKING!
YOU BLUNDERING IDIOT! YOU TOLD ME THEY HAD BEEN WIPED OUT!
15.

STORM THE PALACE! FIRE AT WILL! MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!
DEATH TO THE INVADERS OF OUR HOMELAND!
YOUR WEAPON... QUICKLY! LET IT CUT DOWN THE RABBLE!
AND ONCE THEY ARE WIPED OUT... YOU WILL BE NEXT!
WAIT! UP ABOVE... LOOK! IT'S THE SURFER!!
AT LAST I HAVE FOUND THE ONE I SEEK!
16


YARRO GORT... WHO HAS COVETED SHALLA BAL LO THESE MANY YEARS!
YES! AND NOW...AT LAST... SHE SHALL BE MINE!


NEVER! NOT WHILE...
ARHHHH!

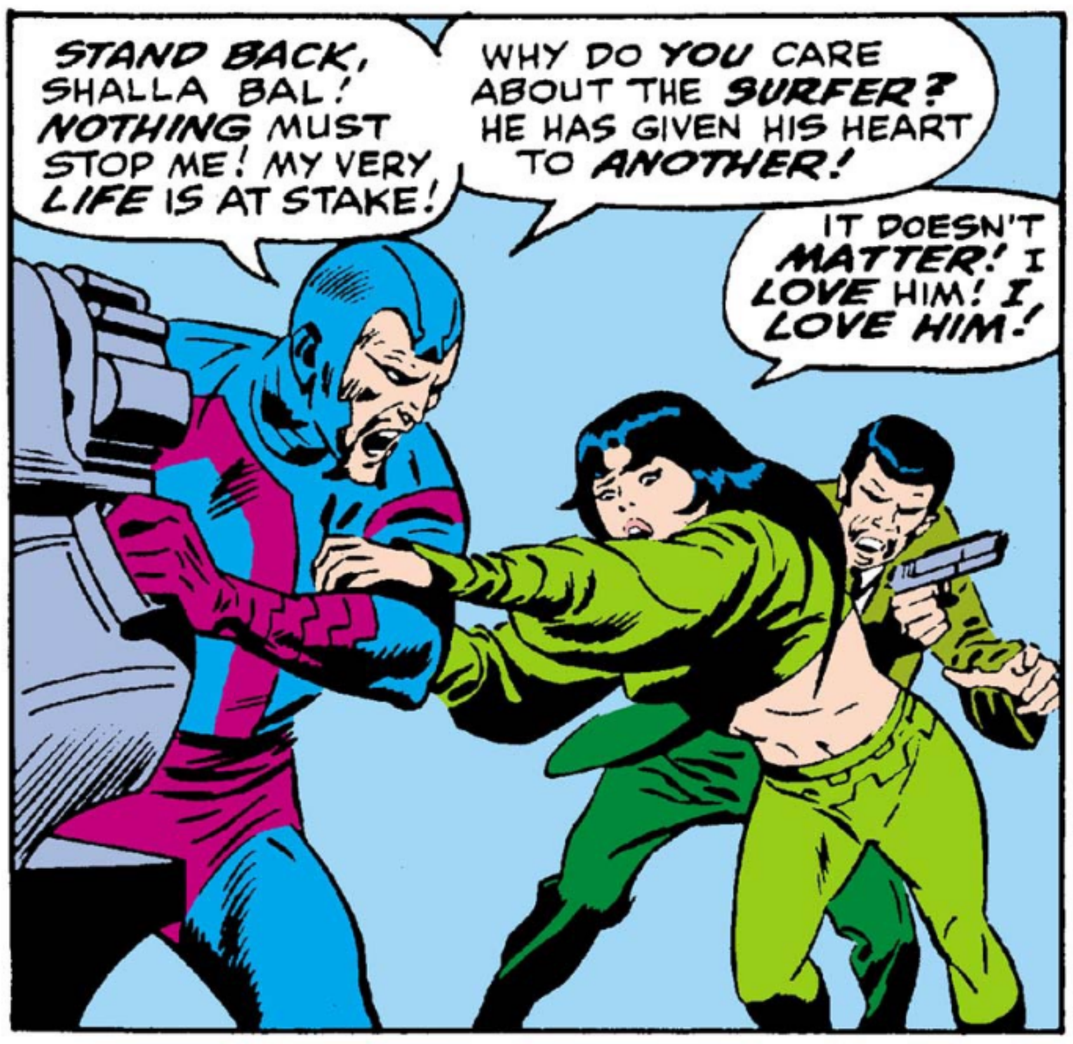

HE STILL LIVES! YOUR WEAPON DID NOTHING BUT HURL HIM FROM HIS BOARD!

THAT MOST COWARDLY BLAST WOULD HAVE SLAIN NORRIN RADD...
BUT NO MERE WEAPON CAN FELL THE SPACE-BORN SILVER SURFER!
HE'S RIGHT! WE KEEP FIRING ...AND HE KEEPS STANDING THERE!

BUT YOU WILL STAND THERE NO LONGER! AWAY, MERCILESS ONES!

HE IS TOO POWERFUL FOR A HAND-HELD WEAPON!
BUT I HAVE ANOTHER ... WHICH CAN SLAY ANYTHING THAT LIVES!
YOU WILL REMAIN HERE.. AND MAKE NO SOUND!

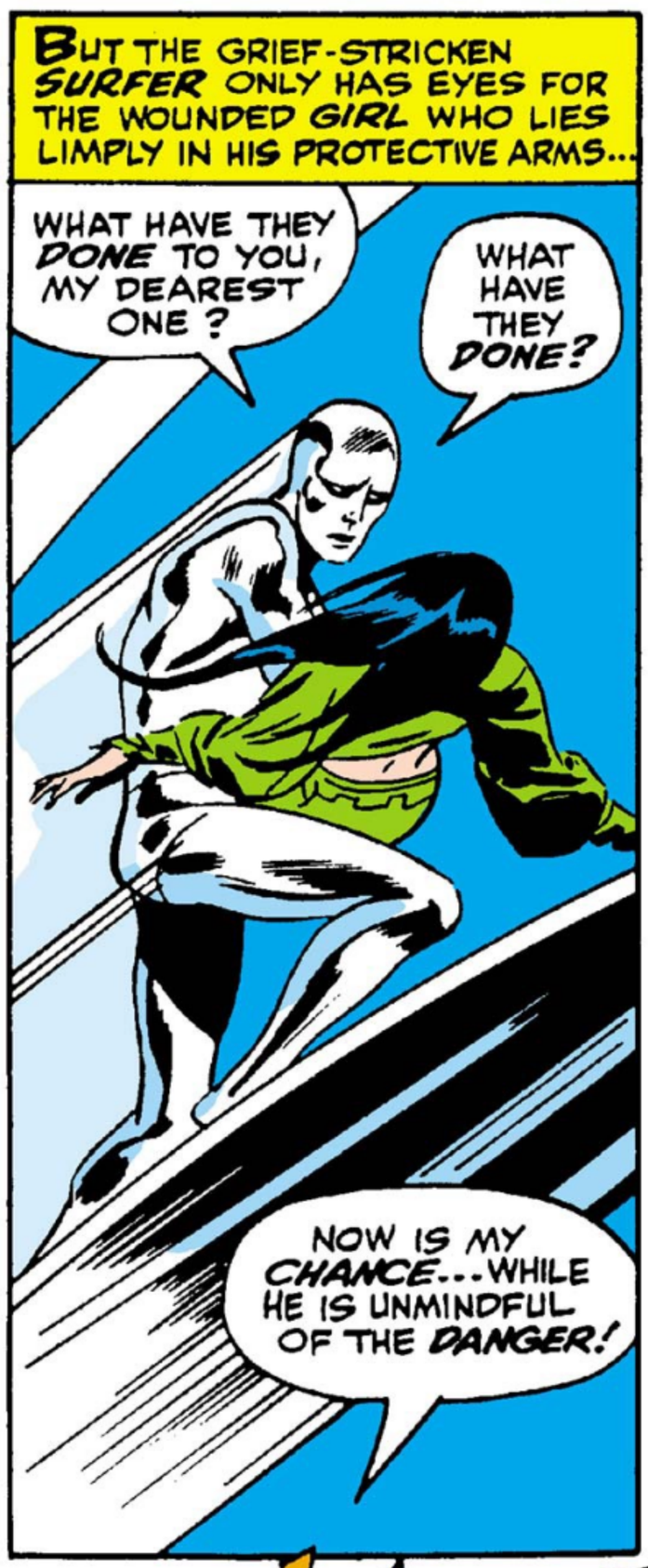
MAKE HASTE... BEFORE HE SLAYS US ALL!
NO! NO! I PLEDGED YOU MY TROTH ... BUT NOT IF YOU HARM NORRIN RADD!
I PLANNED TO USE THIS AGAINST THEM ... BUT THERE IS NO TIME!

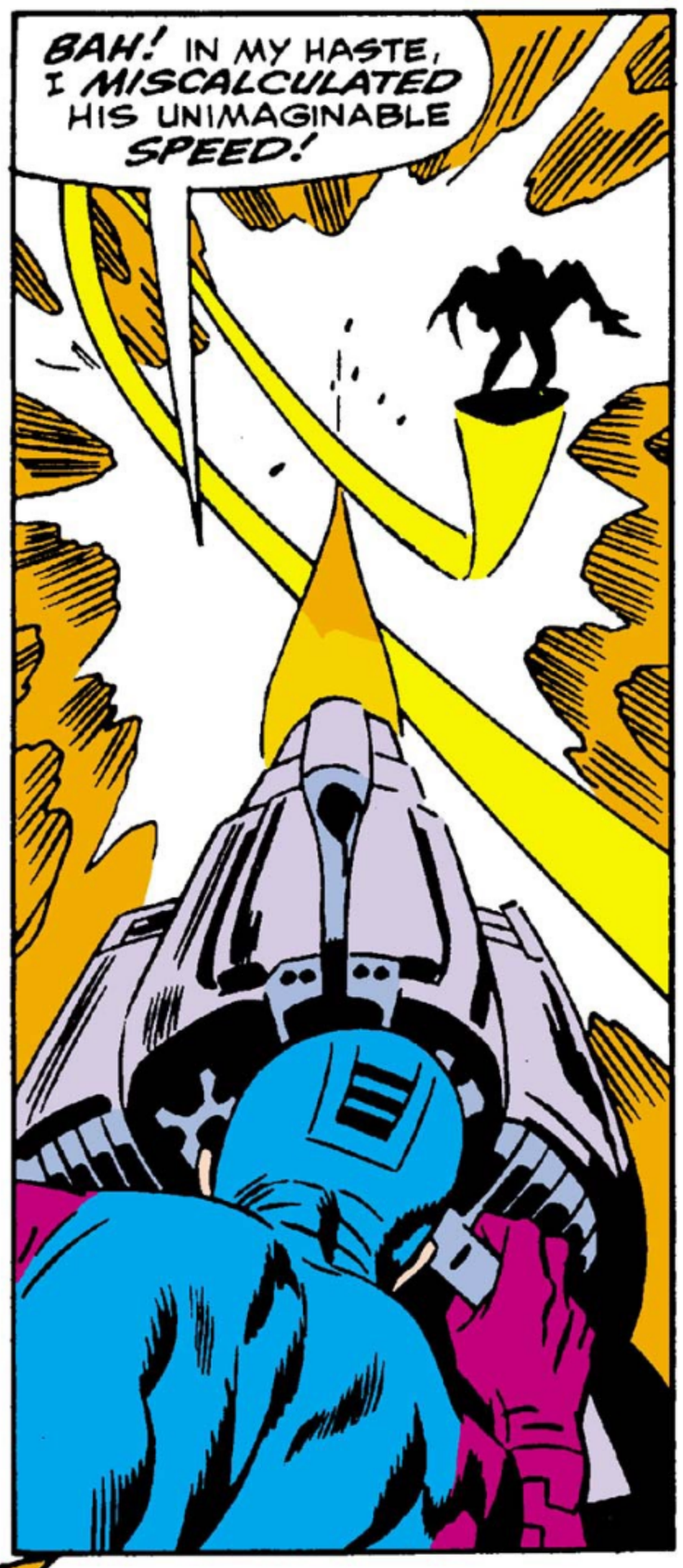

STAND BACK, SHALLA BAL! NOTHING MUST STOP ME! MY VERY LIFE IS AT STAKE!
WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE SURFER? HE HAS GIVEN HIS HEART TO ANOTHER!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! I LOVE HIM! I, LOVE HIM!

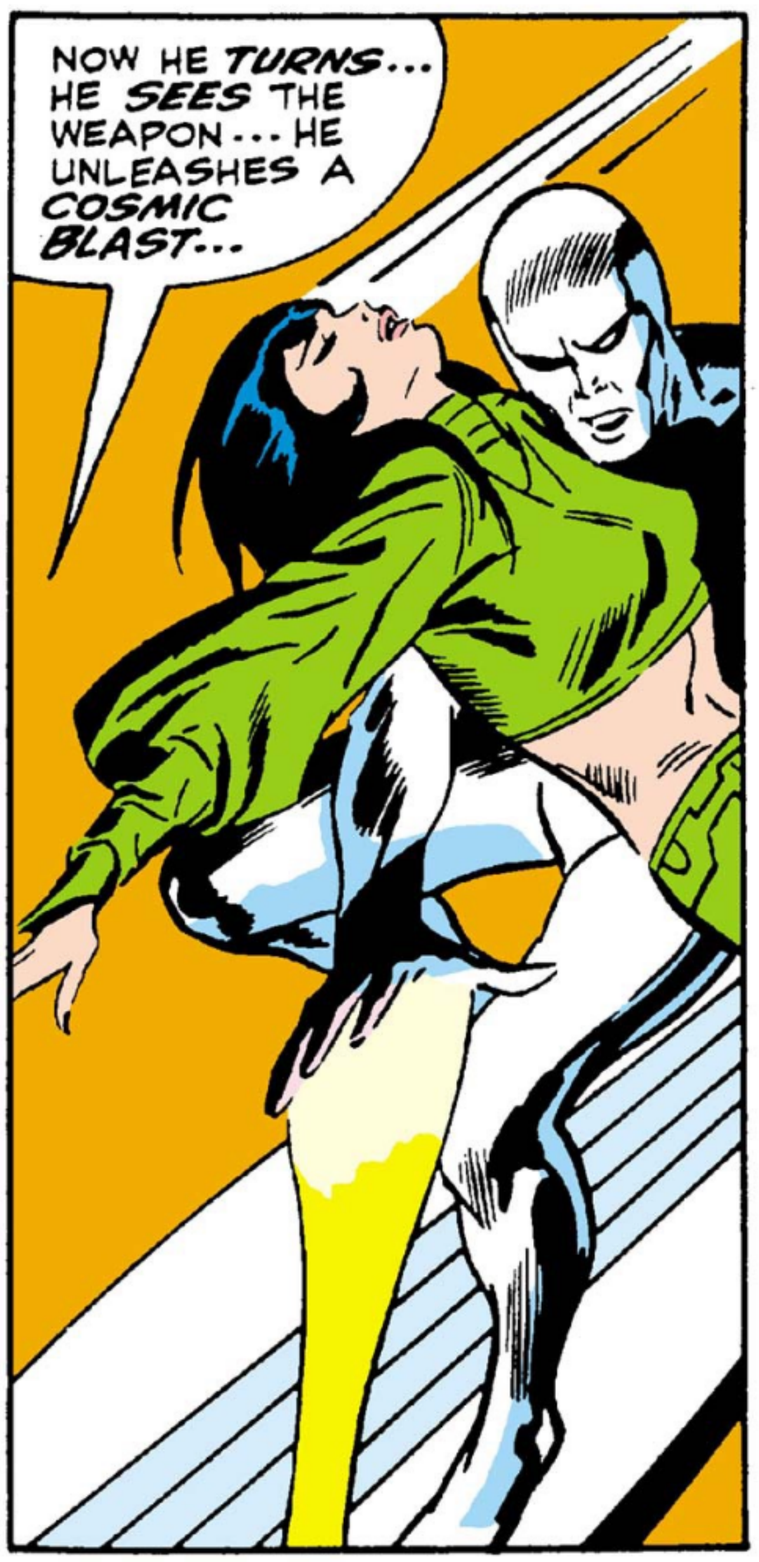
THE FEMALE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO JEOPARDIZE OUR OWN SAFETY!
TR-AK!

FLEE, NORRIN... FLEE!
THEY...MUST NOT HURT YOU... MY DARLING!
SHALLA BAL!!

IT WAS SHE IN THE FALLEN SPACESHIP!
MY BELOVED HAD COME TO EARTH IN SEARCH OF ME!
NO! STAY BACK! STAY BACK!


BUT THE GRIEF-STRICKEN SURFER ONLY HAS EYES FOR THE WOUNDED GIRL WHO LIES LIMPLY IN HIS PROTECTIVE ARMS...
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, MY DEAREST ONE?
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?
NOW IS MY CHANCE...WHILE HE IS UNMINDFUL OF THE DANGER!


BAH! IN MY HASTE, I MISCALCULATED HIS UNIMAGINABLE SPEED!


NOW HE TURNS... HE SEES THE WEAPON... HE UNLEASHES A COSMIC BLAST...

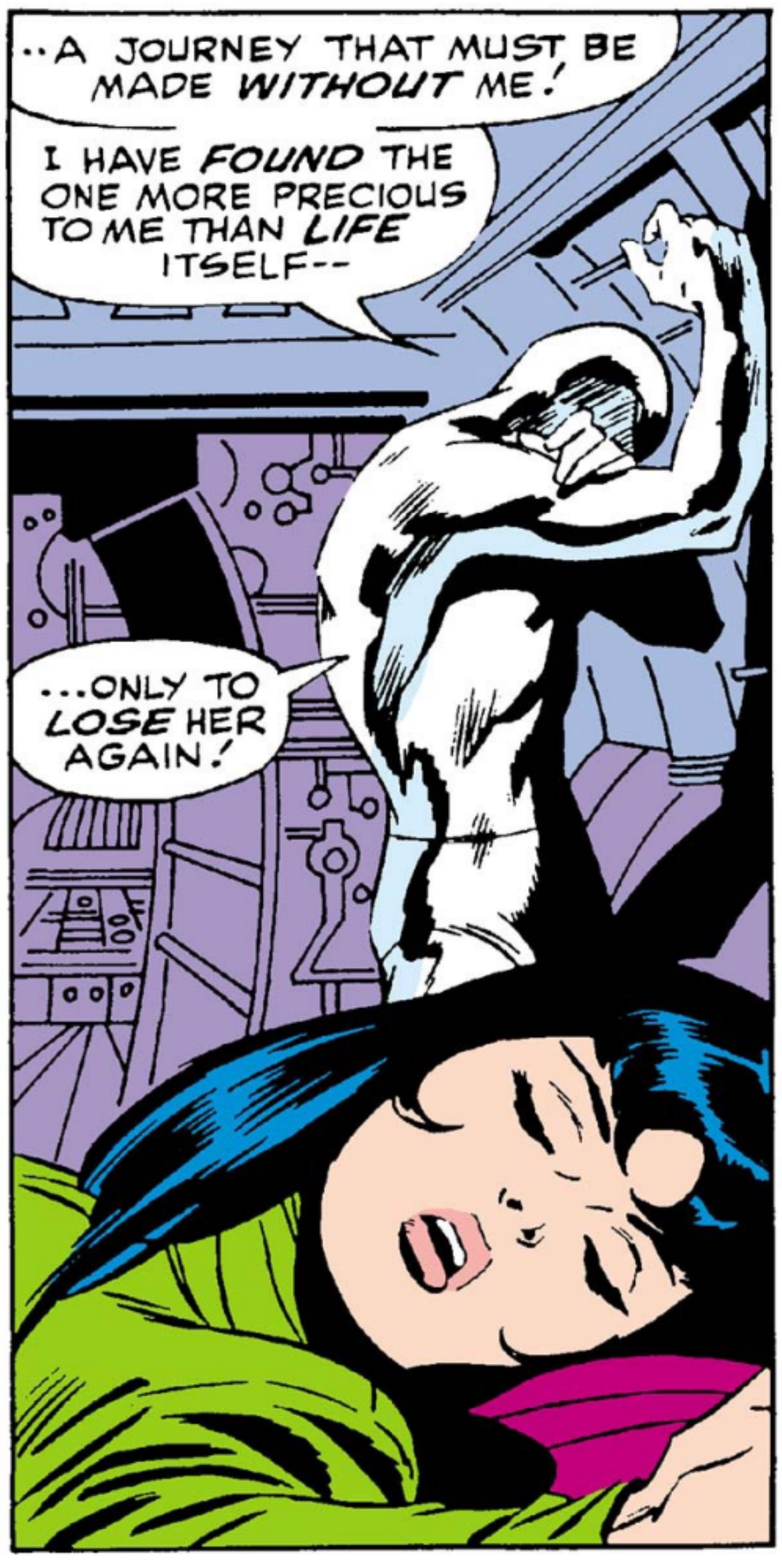
NO! NO!

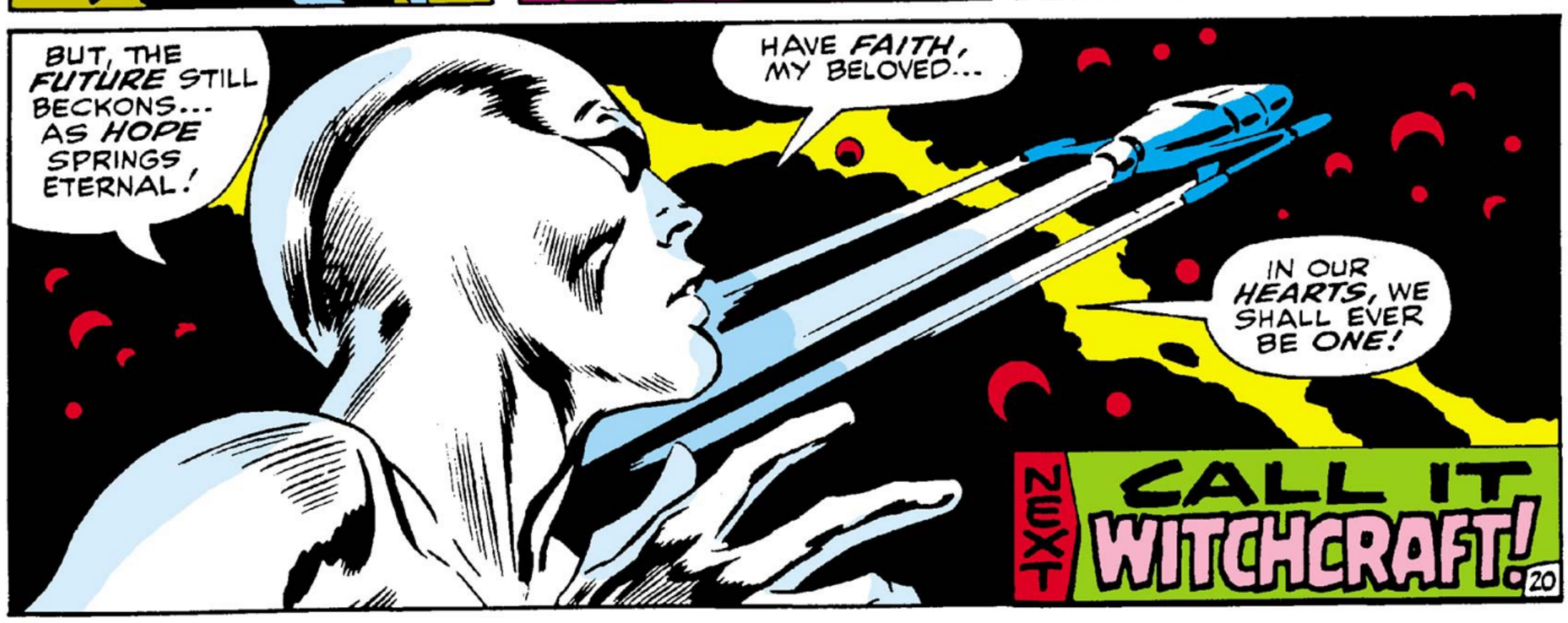
IT IS ENDED! THERE IS NO MORE REASON TO FIGHT!
OUR LEADERS ARE DEAD!

LEADERLESS AND CONFUSED, THE INVADING TROOPS LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TAKE COMMAND ONCE MORE...
KEEP MARCHING, HOMBRES! YOU ARE NOT TO STOP UNTIL YOU HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER!
OUR HOMELAND BELONGS TO OUR PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN!

ONLY UPON ZENN-LA CAN MY BELOVED'S LIFE BE SAVED!
HER WOUND IS TOO CRITICAL FOR EARTH'S PRIMITIVE SCIENCE!

THUS, I MUST USE MY POWER COSMIC TO REPAIR THE CRIPPLED SPACECRAFT...AND PROGRAM IT FOR THE JOURNEY HOME...


..A JOURNEY THAT MUST BE MADE WITHOUT ME!
I HAVE FOUND THE ONE MORE PRECIOUS TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF--
...ONLY TO LOSE HER AGAIN!


BUT, THE FUTURE STILL BECKONS... AS HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL!
HAVE FAITH, MY BELOVED...
IN OUR HEARTS, WE SHALL EVER BE ONE!
NEXT
CALL IT WITCHCRAFT!

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE SURFER!?

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE. N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,

Since the last adventure of the Silver Surfer in FANTASTIC FOUR #77, I have been pondering an important question. Why, after the Surfer had once more proved his immense value and loyalty, didn't Galactus grant him his freedom or, at least, the title of Herald to Galactus? Galactus' excuse that he always wants to know where his former herald is is ridiculous. If he granted the Surfer his freedom he would forever know that he was on the fabled Zenn-La. If he regranted him the title of Herald, he would always know where his faithful herald is.

The Surfer should be given back the cosmic power he lost to the mighty Galactus. But please, settle the controversy of how long the Surfer was with Galactus and how Shalla-Bal could be alive. As always, make mine Marvel!

Mitchell Zingman, 2134 Beverly Way
Merrick, New York 11566

We thought that it was already established, Mitch, that the Surfer was only herald to Galactus for a few years; but if we're wrong and we've spoken somewhere of Surfy's "millennia of faithful service to the great Galactus" or some such, give us the particulars and we'll set our computers (or at least, a couple of staffers around our office) to work on the problem at once!

And as for Galactus, his own inner logic and reasoning are so complex, so absolutely alien to us poor earthbound mortals that it's asking just a wee bit much to expect us to know just why Galactus acted as he did. Still, hang around, hero — you may have your answer yet, in the unfolding epic of the Silver Surfer! Excelsior!

Dear Stan and Company:

Ring my chimes and sock it to me. SILVER SURFER #8 was only the greatest! Story and artwork were both equally great. But why are you turning the Surfer into a super-powered Peter Parker? You're giving him more than a mortal's share of problems and hang-ups. If you keep giving him these problems, you will make something snap in his Zenn-la mind, and he'll go berserk.

In #1 when he rescued Col. Jameson, the men on the carrier thought he was trying to hurt the colonel, and you play up his loneliness and misery. In #2 the Badoon launch the Monster of Badoon which, while invisible, battles the Surfer. The city gets torn up a bit in the course of battle, and naturally the Surfer gets blamed because the monster is invisible. Also in that issue, a teen-age girl whom the Surfer was saving from the Badoon was injured by an Army missile; naturally he got blamed for that too. In #3, the Surfer tries to save the girl at the hospital, but the police are waiting for him with flame throwers. In #4, the citizens think the Surfer has started the battle he is involved in, and they seem to be grateful when Loki finally grabs him. In #5, when the Stranger battles him, the Surfer is again blamed for wrecking the city. In #6 the Surfer finds life in the Future even worse. In #7 the villagers think the Surfer has turned evil, not knowing a creation of Dr. Frankenstein is the cause of the evil being committed.

In every issue, the Surfer does the whole soap opera bit about Man's inhumanity to Man, and how Man mistreats his people and brings out their baser instincts. He preys on any man trying to destroy his fellow man. He's really an ignorant savage who doesn't know any better.

J. C. Rosenzweig, 618 Mayfair Dr. S
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234

Dear Stan,

The bible speaks of Four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Quite recently, Marvel has added a Fifth Gospel to the world. I would call it The Gospel According to Norrin Radd. The character of the Silver Surfer almost parallels that of Jesus Christ. Jesus tried to end man's inhumanity towards man, and for his troubles was hated, laughed at, and scorned. The Silver Surfer is now experiencing the same thing Jesus did two thousand years ago. In issue #3, Mephisto offered beautiful women and precious jewels in exchange for the Surfer's soul, and I could not help thinking of the Temptations of Christ.

The first SILVER SURFER I read was #2. "When Lands the Saucer" had the most dramatic effect on me any literature of any kind has ever had. I could feel his anguish and grief, his only crime being that he dared to help his fellow man. The Brotherhood of Badoon were only symbolic villains as exemplified by the invisible flying suacer. The Earth people were so blinded by their own hatred and bigotry, they failed to see the real danger that confronted them. That's why the spaceship was only symbolically invisible and not really invisible.

"And Who Shall Mourn Him" was also very touching and soul-stirring. Norrin Radd's friendship with Al Harper, his compassion towards the poor destitute man who was the victim of crooked gamblers, and the Surfer's soliloquy in tribute to an unknown, unmourned hero, was great. I remain your loyal fan until Reed Richards runs out of stretch socks.

Paul M. Kay, 27 Dogwood Rd.
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

We've said it before, Paul, and we'll say it again: That's gonna be a looooonnnnnng time!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.

T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer) — A divinely-inspired 'No-Prize' winner.

Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) —Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan and John,

I have carefully analyzed the Silver Surfer and have come to the obvious conclusion: he is a nut!

Now don't get me wrong- the Surfer is one of my favorites. But I feel I must share my knowledge with the world so that others may better understand him.

While he lived on Zenn-La, Norrin Radd felt that the members of his species were becoming decadent and that they should seek to explore the universe as once did their ancestors.

He then tries to stop the unbeatable Galactus. Does he want to die a hero in his girl's eyes or does he perhaps want to shame the others? Then he does something totally against all his culture taught him to do, seek out energy for Galactus. Later, he begins to regret his decision and leads Galactus away from inhabited planets until he reaches Earth, whereupon his sub-conscious mind establishes some connection between Earthmen and Zenn-laians. He then proceeds to take out his pent up emotions on Earth in lieu of his own people.

This point of view is changed both by Sue's friendliness and the realization that since Earth is fighting Galactus, they must be "his kind of people." He then rebelled against Galactus, losing both the battle and his freedom.

Later, after gaining more knowledge of the Earth, he realizes that people are more vicious than he had thought, and realizes that the culture of Zenn-La is the better of the two. He therefore tries to change the Earth's way of thinking (FF #72) and at the same time protect it from all sorts of evils. Yet at the same time he hates it because he lost his freedom fighting for it.

How unstable can anyone be? Norrin Radd would have been a social deviant if he had stayed on his planet and tried to live a normal life. Frederick L. Zoucha, 881 I Street
Washongal, Wash. 98671

In a sense, Fred, he was a social deviant — of the type who would risk his life, his very soul, to save the people of his home world from the scourge of Galactus. If he had been as "normal" as the millions of others on that far-flung world, there would today not only be no Silver Surfer — but also no Zenn-La!

It's a well-known fact that, despite this being the supposed century of the "common man", that it's still your *uncommon* man who becomes a hero — or a social deviant, often just a different name for the same person. It has always been history's malcontents who have been the world's great leaders — its master painters, sculptors, and authors, as well!

So, you might say that our reactions to your letter is one of the most unusual of all. We rather agree that the Silver Surfer is and ought to be a social deviant — but if he's a nut, then the world (and the *worlds*) stands in need of more like him!

Dear Stan and John,

I am all choked up over the death of a valiant man, Al Harper.

I thought at least he might last a full two issues. Since he was Negro, it gave me a proud feeling to know that he did not run in panic, nor did he rave like the world would end tomorrow.

He faced facts, he even tried to help Ol' Silver Skin out of his biggest problem, the barrier which holds him prisoner on the World Without Pity. Al was (to me) the epitome of all men, both black and white, Jew and Catholic, sad and happy. I wish to mourn his passing. For Al Harper was one of the bravest supporting characters of them all.

My thanks to John Buscema for a job that had Soul! It's great to know that a Negro like myself can be a hero. You see, I cried at the end of that story. Well done, Marvel!
Gregory Pierson, 711 Highland
Alton, Ill. 62002

Believe us, Greg, when we say that you were not much sorrier than we to see the death of Al Harper at the end of only one soul-touching story. However, that was one of those star-spun tales that seems to write itself — and somehow the situation, the drama, every single element of the story as we saw it seemed to point to that irrevocable conclusion. Would that it had been otherwise!

Dear Stan and John,

The latest SILVER SURFER, as usual, was great!! But, in the words of you, Stan, in AVENGERS #25, on page 2 panel 5, you speak of the paradox of time. You said that if something in the past was altered, it would change the course of the events in the future. So, if the Silver Surfer destroyed the atomic research center before the Overlord was created, his memory would be completely erased because he never experienced his ordeal with the Overlord. My warning — don't play with time in your mags, because it (as my letter probably has too!) raises more questions than answers. So, in the words of the Silver Surfer, "My girdle is killing me!" Thomas Lane, 35 So. Turnpike Rd.
Wallingford, Conn. 06492

You're definitely correct about our perplexing problems with the time paradox, Tom. In fact, that's the major reason why merry Marvel presents so *few* time-travel stories: after all, no one can *really* be certain what would happen to a time-traveler, even provided that such a feat is possible — which many eminent scientists doubt.

But — forget time-travel stories *completely*? Sorry, lad, but your Bullpen can resist anything but temptation, and from time to time (whoops!) we'll just have to play H. G. Wells on you. Maybe you could just wear blinders while reading those issues . . . ?

Dear Stan and John,

You have created a divine being in the Silver Surfer. He is more tragic than Spider-Man, more godly than Odin. His wisdom is profound, his power unequalled. His problems are unsurpassed by any character in the Marvel galaxy (who else has a galactic girlfriend a couple of solar systems away?), and his powers are basically original. The Silver Surfer is Marvel's shining star of characterization.
Mitch Berman, 31561 Scenic Dr.
South Laguna, Calif. 92677

What can we say, M.B., after we say . . . *thanks!*

Dear Stan Lee,

What mere mortal words can express the sheer magnitude of SILVER SURFER? This is by no means an ordinary comic magazine but a discoverer of new directions. The Sky Rider of the Spaceways has introduced pure fantasy to the comic magazine world. The Silver Surfer has in his power the energy of an entire solar system, but still has one weakness — one human weakness — Compassion. In this way, the Silver Surfer, unknown to humans, faces the wonders of the Cosmos alone, yet not alone. For all fantasy fans know of his adventures. You ask who speaks for the Silver Surfer? The Surfer speaks for himself!!! In the universe of Comicdom, the Silver Surfer is king! Congratulations on a comic magazine character that equals Robert E. Howard's "Conan" Rudy Rankins, 6630 Crosswell St.
Houston, Texas 77017

And, since we're ardent admirers of Howard's sword-and-sorcery swashbuckler, Rudy, we consider that one of the highest compliments that a character of what was once called "pop-literature" can attain. Alas, it's a shame that the two can't meet; nothing would give us more pleasure than to emblazon some future cover with the trumpeting title: "The Surfer and the Cimmerian!"